

Read Through The Bible

Week 10 –April 7-13, 2024

Leviticus 13-24, Mark 12:13-15:47, Palms 30:8-32, Proverbs 6:20-35

Icebreaker

- What is the purest substance you know?
- How do you feel about paying taxes?
- Who is the most generous person you know?

Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What struggles did you face?

What can you share from your personal Bible reading this week?

Where did you see God in your daily life?

Step 2: GET FED

Leviticus

Lev 13 provides instructions for identifying leprosy diseases on a person or material. How to protect the community from the disease is also provided.

How do these instructions relate to today? Are these instructions for the good of the person, the community, or both? What are some instructions God has provided for protecting the community today?

Lev 14 provides instructions for cleansing persons and houses with leprosy diseases.

Why would God provide cleansing instructions? How does this relate to God's holiness? How are we to be cleansed today?

Leviticus 15:31 (ESV) ³¹ *“Thus you shall keep the people of Israel separate from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness by **defiling my tabernacle that is in their midst.**”*

Lev 15 provides instructions about bodily discharges. What was the discipline if the tabernacle was defiled?

What do the rules for cleansing/purifying the bodies indicate about God's justice? What do they indicate about God's holiness/purity?

Lev 16 provides instructions for the Day of Atonement. The blood of one goat is used for sacrifice. The scapegoat is sent into the wilderness with the sins of the people purifying them for another year. Who is our scapegoat? For how long are we purified? How often can we be cleansed?

Leviticus 17:8-9 (ESV) ⁸ *“And you shall say to them, Any one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn among them, **who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice** ⁹ **and does not bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to offer it to the LORD, that man shall be cut off from his people.**”*

Why must all sacrifices be made to the Lord? Why such a drastic punishment? Is this reason still important?

Leviticus 17:11 (ESV) ¹¹ *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, **for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.**”*

How does this concept apply to our lives today? How is it implemented in our lives today? How do we appropriate the blood today?

Leviticus 18:1-5 (ESV) ¹ *“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² **“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the LORD your God. ³ You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes.**”*

⁴ *You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the LORD your God.* ⁵ *You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.*
Why was it so important to obey God's laws? Is it still important today? Who's laws am I obeying today? How do I know God's laws?

Leviticus 18:30 (ESV) ³⁰ *So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God.*"

Why were the laws for sexual relations so important? What does participating in these customs do to our relationship with God? Are these laws still in effect today?

Leviticus 19:1-2 (ESV) ¹ *And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,* ² *"Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.*

Leviticus 20:24-26 (ESV) ²⁴ *But I have said to you, 'You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey.' I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples.* ²⁵ *You shall therefore separate the clean beast from the unclean, and the unclean bird from the clean. You shall not make yourselves detestable by beast or by bird or by anything with which the ground crawls, which I have set apart for you to hold unclean.* ²⁶ *You shall be holy to me, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.*

Leviticus 22:31-33 (ESV) ³¹ *"So you shall keep my commandments and do them: I am the LORD.* ³² *And you shall not profane my holy name, that I may be sanctified among the people of Israel. I am the LORD who sanctifies you,* ³³ *who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the LORD.*"

Why does God's holiness make so much difference to us? What is the basic concept of these two passages? Is it still viable today? How are you doing in your holiness?

Leviticus 19:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ *You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.*

Sound familiar? Where do we see this in the New Testament? Why is this so important? How are you doing in this regard?

Mark

Mark 12:15-17 (ESV) ¹⁵ *But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it."* ¹⁶ *And they brought one. And he said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's."* ¹⁷ *Jesus said to them, "**Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.**" And they marveled at him.*

What do we owe to God? How do we pay that bill?

Mark 12:28-33 (ESV) ²⁸ *And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"* ²⁹ *Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'* ³⁰ *And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'* ³¹ *The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* ***There is no other commandment greater than these.***" ³² *And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him."* ³³ *And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."*

What does it mean these two sacrifices are more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices? What would this mean to a Jew? How long had these two commandments been in effect? (see Deut. 6:4-9) How can we fulfill these commands today? If we all practiced these, how would our lives and world change?

Mark 12:41-44 (ESV) ⁴¹ *And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums.* ⁴² *And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny.* ⁴³ *And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, **this poor***

widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. ⁴⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

How does your giving compare to this widow? Are we contributing out of our abundance or out of our needs? What does it mean to contribute all that we have?

Mark 13:32-33 (ESV) ³² “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.
How can we keep awake? How can we be on guard?

*Mark 14:22-24 (ESV) ²² And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; **this is my body.**” ²³ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴ And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, **which is poured out for many.***

How important is this event to our lives? How can we honor this sacrifice?

*Mark 14:29-31 (ESV) ²⁹ Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” ³⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” ³¹ But he said emphatically, “**If I must die with you, I will not deny you.**” And they all said the same.*

Have we made the same declaration as Peter? Have we denied Him like Peter? How can we keep from denying Him?

*Mark 14:35-36 (ESV) ³⁵ And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, **if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.** ³⁶ And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. **Yet not what I will, but what you will.**”*

Christ did not want to have to die on the cross. Yet, He was willing to submit to God’s will. Are we willing to do submit to God’s will? What evidence is there in our lives this is true? What would show we are submitting to God’s will?

*Mark 14:55 (ESV) ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, **but they found none.***

How would we fare if they were seeking testimony against us? How important is the concept of Jesus’ sinlessness for us? How can we appropriate Jesus’ sinlessness for ourselves?

*Mark 14:71-72 (ESV) ⁷¹ But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “**I do not know this man of whom you speak.**” ⁷² And **immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him,** “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.*

How would you fare in Peter’s situation? Have we denied Jesus? What are some ways we deny Jesus today? What would you say if someone asked you today if you were a follower of Jesus?

*Mark 15:39 (ESV) ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “**Truly this man was the Son of God!**”*

Have we recognized the divinity of Christ? What does this mean for us? Have we recognized the importance of this fact for our life?

Psalms

Psalm 31:5 (ESV) ⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

What other passage does this bring to mind? Have you committed your spirit into God’s hand?

*Psalm 31:14-16 (ESV) ¹⁴ But I trust in you, O LORD; **I say, “You are my God.”** ¹⁵ My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors! ¹⁶ **Make your face shine on your servant; save me in your steadfast love!***

Do we say this today? What does it mean that He is our God? What effect will it have on our life if He is our God? What does it mean for God to shine His face on us?

Proverbs

Proverbs 6:20-22 (ESV) ²⁰ My son, **keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching.** ²¹ Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. ²² **When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you.**

Do we honor our parents? Have we come to the realization of their wisdom?

Proverbs 6:27-28 (ESV) ²⁷ Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? ²⁸ Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?

Do we try to see how close we can get to sin? Or do we try to stay far away from it?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

- Write one way to love God in each of the four categories: Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength
- Meditate on what it means to deny Christ. Write one way many Christians deny Him today. Then write one method for correcting that denial.
- If possible, thank your parents for their guidance and love.