

# sermon discussion

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## MAIN POINTS & KEY SCRIPTURES

*These passages are a snapshot of how the 10 Commandments were to be lived out by the ancient Israelites. They are not meant to be duplicated by us in our time.*

### Exodus 22:1-4

- Restitution was an action and a judgment imposed on the transgressor to illustrate to all the harm his actions had done.

### Exodus 22:5-6

- Careless acts require the loss of valued things to teach the transgressor the impact of his carelessness.

### Exodus 22:7-15

- Sometimes things which are hard to judge must be left to God to adjudicate.

### Exodus 22:16-17

- Acts involving sex and relationships affect all the community, not just the individuals involved.
- In God's justice system some things have less to do with criminal laws and more to do with righteous daily living.

### Exodus 22:18-20

- Outright rebellion against the established religion, country, and God of Israel was an act of willful treason that involved more than just expressing an opinion.

### Exodus 22:21-27

- God wants us to consider the poor's condition and find a way to restore him back to society the best we can.

### Exodus 22:28 -30

- Because God saved us, we are to be different kind of people to those who observe our lives.

### Exodus 23:1-9

- Believers in the Lord do not believe that justice comes from mob majority rule but from God's objective attribute of truth and justice.
- Justice is for everyone under God including even those that hate us.
- If God is objectively true and just, we are to seek His justice not our own.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What rules did you have in your home as a child that you didn't like then but appreciate now?
2. The first half of Exodus 22 addresses the idea of various acts of theft and restitution. Read the account of Zaccheus in Luke 19:1-10. How does Zaccheus' offer of restitution compare with your understanding of the concept outlined in Exodus 22?
3. In Exodus 22:2-3, a property owner can expect to use force to protect himself and his property during the night, but he's guilty of bloodshed if doing so after sunrise. How does this passage demonstrate what you know of God's attitude towards human life?
4. Read Exodus 23:2-3, 6-7. Within God's justice system, we are to show no impartiality in favor of or against any person or group. In what ways can you practically live out the principle of impartiality in your community?
5. Exodus 22 demonstrates safeguards for situations where personal responsibility is lacking. How do these laws cause you to reflect on your own responsibilities and your expectations for others?
6. Exodus 22:16-23:9 emphasizes moral law as opposed to criminal law. How would you explain the importance of moral law to someone today who believes that "God should be kept out" of all modern law?

## GOING FURTHER

**MEMORIZE:** *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.* **Psalm 89:14 ESV**

**WATCH:** [The Beauty of Biblical Justice, Part 1](#) TheologyMom | July 20, 2021 (teaching begins around 13:58) for a thorough discussion about biblical justice versus social justice.

**READ:** See chapter 6 in *Forgive: Why Should I and How Can I?* by Timothy Keller