



Deuteronomy 20-23

1. When contemplating “war” against the enemies of the church we must remember that victory : 1) is not determined by our opponent’s size or power since it is God who promises to fight w/ and for us (20:1-4), 2) mandates we fight (versus leaving it all up to God) and are ready to receive (the possibility of) pain/suffering (20:3 -“drawing near for battle” = we must still fight; 20:5-7 - “lest he die in battle” [3x]) 3) means enlisting/involving only the mature, brave and tough (20:5-7 = mature, 20:8 = brave and tough), 4) requires delegation (20:9).
2. The only people the church can ever live “peaceably” w/ are those who are not : 1) fighting against the advancement of God’s kingdom (20:10-15), 2) trespassing on and threatening our “inheritance” (i.e. the Christian Faith and its blessings) (20:16-18; e.g. false Christians).
3. God’s people are to be conservationists (20:19-20).
4. God’s instruction for dealing w/an unsolved crime in the covenant community means : 1) God does not always give us the evidence necessary to carry out justice (21:1), 2) there are times when sin (and those guilty of capital offenses) may remain outstanding among us and God’s wrath/curse not be upon us (21:2-4, 8-9 w/16:19-20 - “that you may live and inherit the land”), 3) this is what we are to accept when diligent investigation by the “elders” is unable to produce the necessary evidence to identify the guilty party (21:5-7).
5. God expects “every dispute and every assault” to be “settled” by the “word” (or judgment) of His anointed priests/pastors (21:5).
6. The fact that God teaches women and children are the personal property of men, does not mean they possess no rights or can be treated immorally: 1) women have the right to not be taken as a wife – i.e. to forego (an arranged) marriage (21:10-14; “you no longer delight in her”= She has not reciprocated his desire for marriage; “you shall let her go wherever she wants” = he cannot marry her or sexually consummate the marriage [by going in to her”] but instead must free her [versus continuing to keep her as his personal property] since he has “humiliated her” thru shaving her head, paring her nails and removing her from her former culture and home – see again verses 12-13), 2) “firstborn” children who continue in covenant are entitled to 2/3 of the inheritance regardless of their parents’ affection for them (21:15-17).
7. Parent abuse is a capital crime (21:18-20).
8. Jesus was hanged on a tree as a sign that He bore God’s “curse” for sin – not punishment, for us (21:22-23; Gal 3:13).
9. We have an obligation to protect: 1) the lost/damaged property of our covenant bros/sis (22:1-3), 2) our God-given gender distinction through the clothes we wear (22:5), 3) the potential for future productivity of things (22:6-7, 9), 4) the safety of our covenant bros/sis when in our homes (22:8), 5) sacred things from becoming defiled (22:10-11 - “ox and donkey” = clean and unclean; “wool and linen mixed together” = tb worn only by the priests), 6) God’s prescribed covenant signs/symbols (22:12).
10. Sexual immorality in all forms is a capital crime (22:13-24; 13- “goes in to her” [sexual intercourse], 22 – “lying w/the wife” = sexual activity; 24 – “she did not cry for help” = the sex activity was consensual).
11. Rape is a capital crime (22:25-27 - “the betrothed woman cried for help [but] there was no one to rescue her”).
12. When the father agrees, a shotgun wedding is what God prescribes for those unbetrothed/unmarried women still living at home who have engaged in sexual activity w/another covenant member (of the opposite sex) (22:28-29 w/Exo 22:16-17; Num 30:3 – “while in her father’s house”).
13. Mother-son incest is strictly prohibited (22:30; Gen 9:22; 1Co 5:1).
14. One of the biggest reasons the gospel under the New Covenant is considered such provocative and good news is b/c the way of salvation is now available to all people – including those once permanently or temporarily forbidden (e.g. people who had sex changes, were prostitutes or people of certain races) (23:1-8; Joh 3:16; e.g. Mat 21:31 – “prostitutes”).

15. God's camp (i.e. the place where God's people dwell: our homes, the church, etc.) must remain spiritually clean if we want Him to "deliver" us from our enemies (23:9-14; Rom 14:14 w/Joh 15:3 yet 1Co 5:3 w/2Co 7:1).

16. We are to protect and provide for those who are now refugees or in danger b/c of their choice to follow God (23:15-16).

17. God hates any career that requires sinful practice to make money (e.g. prostitution) - as well as the money earned from it (23:17-18; e.g. many sales jobs today).

18. It is sinful for the church to loan her members money with interest, but it is not sinful for such interest to be applied to loans in (or to) the world (23:19-20).

19. Anything we voluntarily promise (or "vow") to another person – including verbal oaths/commitments (what has "passed our lips"), we equally promise (or "vow") to God and must do – otherwise we are "guilty of sin" (23:21-23).

20. The needy in the covenant community are to be sustained by what we possess but never profit from what we possess - or cause hardship to us by what they receive (23:24-25).