

Reformed Church of Whanganui

Sermon Outline/Notes page

Sunday Morning 10th May 2020

Reading: Text: Exodus 22:16-31

God cares about you

Main idea: The laws and case laws here in this section of Exodus show us the character of God. His characteristics are reflected in us when we live by his law. The law also shows us that God cares deeply about his chosen people.

1. God cares about purity

Not rape but seduction and consent, in which case the man had to marry the girl and pay a bride price.

If deemed unsuitable by the girl's father...

Faithfulness and holiness of God to be displayed in his covenant children; hence the clear guidance in the Bible for sex and marriage.

A real man of God would protect, not selfishly gratify his own desires.

2. Further laws on holiness and purity

Sorcery: The Israelites were not to imitate the detestable practices when they entered Canaan (Deut. 18:9)

Calling on demonic power to gratify self rather than trusting in God.

Bestiality: Part of Canaanite pagan worship. Because of such practices the Lord ordered the Israelites to drive the Canaanites out because they had polluted the land. (Lev. 18:23&24)

Sacrificing to idols: An open act of rebellion against God deserving of death.

Modern day parallels: séances, horoscopes, joking about bestiality, forsaking the worship of God for other activities,

God cares about the spiritual wellbeing and purity of the church.

3. God cares for the poor and disadvantaged. (Concern for strangers widows and orphans)

Strangers often enslaved in other nations. Cf. Israel in Egypt. The Israelites were not to treat foreigners in that way

God wants his people to care for those who have lost husbands and fathers.

Galatians 6:10

What can we do to befriend and help those who are new in town or who are lonely?

We were estranged from God impoverished by sin spiritually bankrupt God sent his Son to be our savior from sin.

4. The way we must respond to the God who cares for us

Do not revile God or curse a ruler, (vs. 28) Cf. Paul in Acts 23, “I didn’t know he was the high priest...you shall not speak evil of a ruler.”

Tithes and offerings; raising up our children for the Lord

Ceremonial holiness

Holiness in every aspect of life (1 Peter 1: 16)