

Message #27**Deuteronomy 22:1-30**

As we come to this chapter, we come now to a series of chapters that will address all kinds of issues and some of them will seem quite strange. As we go through these chapters, you will come to three major conclusions:

- 1) God is sovereign over everything and He carefully watches everything right down to birds.
- 2) Man needs this instruction from God because there are some things he doesn't know.
Not everyone knew building codes or farming techniques. They came from Egypt.
- 3) Man needs this instruction from God because his heart is wicked and has a tendency to do things contrary to the word and will of God.

We often times read the words of Jeremiah, who said in Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?"

We read the words of Jesus, who said in Matthew 15:19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders."

We read the words of Paul, who said in Romans 3:10-12 "There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one."

We tend to read those words and think we are God's people, so our hearts aren't so bad. That is where we are wrong. Deuteronomy is a book written to God's people and God knew their hearts had evil tendencies and therefore some of the things we are about to see were given by God to His people because He realized the potential depravity in all kinds of situations.

If Israel wanted God's blessings when she got into the Promised Land, she could not live life following the passions her heart; she needed to obey the word of God and not do evil things.

Once Israel was in this Promised Land, if they would understand and follow the instructions from God's word, God would bless them. That point is clear from this chapter.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT GOD'S PEOPLE WANT THE BLESSINGS OF GOD, THEY MUST LIVE THEIR LIVES BY FOLLOWING GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR HIS BLESSINGS.

Mr. Miles used to say time and time again, the best counseling book is the Word of God. If people will come and sit under the word of God and seek to obey it, things will get cleaned up and cleared up. What is actually needed in a person's life for the blessings of God is knowledge of what God expects and wants.

What we have described in this chapter and in the next chapters are a series of things God's people face in life and the responses God wants His people to have. God gives a series of instructions as to how He wants His people to respond.

May I say that these instructions are for God's people and they are for their good. May I also say that we have a heart and mind that is capable of the bizarre, which is why God gave these instructions. God knew His own people were not lily whites.

Before we look at this, we want to point out something extremely important. **These are instructions for God's people, not for the lost world. This is how God wants His people to act if they want His blessings.**

Now I think anyone would profit from following these things, but the truth is these are addressed to God's people.

INSTRUCTION #1 – How to respond to something the neighbor lost. **22:1-4**

Now one would think this situation would be a no brainer, but the truth is, there are those who live by a code that says, "Finders keepers, losers weepers" even if they know who lost what they found.

Rule #1 - You are not to ignore your neighbor when he loses something and you see it. **22:1**

Let's say you see your neighbors sheep or ox wander off, you are not to just forget about it. You are not to take the position that it is his problem, not mine. God wants His people to be a good neighbor and do something about it.

An animal that wanders off is subject to predator animals and also those who would steal it. God wanted the neighbor to consider the animal as important and he wanted it returned.

Rule #2 - You shall care for the animal and get it back to its owner. **22:2**

Let's say the animal wandered away and got lost and came from a person who was quite a distance away and you knew who owned the animal, but you were not in a position to drop everything and immediately return it. God says then your responsibility was to care for the animal until it could be returned.

Also if you didn't know who the owner was, you still had the responsibility to be merciful to that animal and take care of it until the owner showed up.

God not only cares about the animal, He cares about how you take care of that animal. God was the One who let you see the straying animal that had wandered away. God was the One who allowed that animal to come to you and let you find it. God wants you to you are to get it and take care of it and do everything you can to get it back to its owner.

Rule #3 - You are to do the same with anything the neighbor loses. **22:3**

It may be a donkey or a coat or garment. It could be a wallet or some other item. God wants His people to be a good neighbor and see to it that it is taken back to the neighbor who lost it.

Rule #4 - You shall help your neighbor with when he needs your help. **22:4**

Let's say you see that your neighbor's donkey or ox had fallen and he is trying to get it up. God says you go help him. Help him take care of his animal.

Now this literally did happen to us, or to Mary. I was doing lectures at Frontier and Solomon fell and could not get up. Our neighbors came over to help Mary literally get him to stand up. So this thing does happen.

But let's say you see a neighbor who gets stuck or his vehicle won't start. We have a responsibility to do what we can to help our neighbor. God monitors this.

INSTRUCTION #2 – How to view lesbianism, homosexuality, cross-dressing or Transgenderism. **22:5**

In a society God will bless, men will be men and women will be women. God is the One who assigned sexuality to a person and He detests it when those values are disregarded. It is clearly stated that this is an abomination to God.

Paul says in Romans that God has given a natural desire within a human for a woman to be drawn to a man and for a man to be drawn to a woman. It is against what God for a woman to want to become a man or a man to want to become a woman. It is an abomination to God and God clearly says I am abandoning them to His wrath (Romans 1:18, 26-28).

Let's be as clear as we can be on this from a Biblical perspective. Homosexuality, Lesbianism, Transgenderism or Transvestitism is a depravity and an abomination to God that will cause God to abandon that person and eventually send one to eternal fire and hell. If a child of God wants God's blessings, he/she will stay far away from this kind of depravity.

If one will turn from the sin and turn to Jesus Christ, that person will be saved from this horrible sin. Some of the Corinthians did that (I Cor. 6:9-11). But if one does not turn from the sin they are already under the wrath of God, they are abandoned by God and the moment they die they will burn forever in hell. That is straight truth from God's word.

There are two genders and only two: male and female. When you see a women's swim meet that permits a man, who says he is a woman, to be in it, this whole thing is an abomination to God.

INSTRUCTION #3 – How to respond to a fallen bird's nest and mother bird. **22:6-7**

God takes a Personal interest in the preservation of life, even if it is a little bird. Jesus said God sees every sparrow (Matthew 10:29). The description here is that you find a bird nest on the ground and there is a mother bird sitting on the young birds or eggs. God says I want that mother bird protected. You may collect the eggs but do not kill the mother bird. God watches His people and how they treat His animals, including His birds.

There are people who think nothing of hurting animals. There are some people who use them for target practice. God says I don't want My people behaving like that. If you care about all life I have created, I will see to it that your life is prolonged.

INSTRUCTION #4 – How to build a house roof to code so no one is injured or dies. **22:8**

The majority of God's people who came out of Egypt lived in tents. They had never built a house before. So God came up with some simple building code rules for when they did build a new house.

A parapet is a protective wall around the edge of a roof. God had a requirement about building codes and construction. When a person built a home they were to put a protective wall or rail around the roof so that no one could accidentally fall off and get injured or killed.

The architecture of a house was a flat roof design. It was a place where people relaxed, worked and even slept at times. When constructing this place there was to be a railing so people would not fall and be injured or killed.

INSTRUCTION #5 – How to plant a field. **22:9**

Again many of these people had never planted a field before. They were coming out of the desert areas and into a fertile Promised Land. So God says here is the best way to plant a field for yielding a blessed crop. This instruction was for God's people.

It is possible to grow two kinds of products in a field, but it is not advisable and for God's people it is not permissible. God wanted one crop grown at a time. Vineyards were important to Israel and God wanted a pure crop of grapes and not a crop mixed with other things.

One theological reason for this is that God's people are considered to be a vineyard, in both the O.T. and the N.T. and God wants a pure crop, not a mixture crop. God does not want His people contaminated with some other type of seed.

The reality is, the best grapes are grown in fields dedicated to grape growing.

INSTRUCTION #6 – How to plow a field. **22:10**

God says when you plow a field, use two animals of the same kind. Don't use an ox and a donkey because it is a mixture that will not work. Truth is if you try to yoke two different kinds of animals together for plowing you will probably end up with a bucking bronco rodeo.

We have some who have taken this principle to another level. They don't plow a field with two different types of tractors. We have some in this church who are die hard John Deere green tractor boys and others who are Case international red tractor boys and others who are Allis Chalmers orange tractor boys. They still operate by this rule.

Try to bring the wrong colored tractor on their property and there will be big trouble. We know that this teaching does have theological application because Paul said we are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers (II Cor. 6:14-18).

INSTRUCTION #7 – How to dress. **22:11-12**

God says when you are making clothes, don't mix wool and linen. Actually there is a very practical reason for not doing this and God knew it.

Pure wool is one of the best materials you can wear in mountain country when it is cold and linen is a good material to wear when it is hot. Both materials absorb moisture. So in all reality, this rule was for the benefit of the people.

Now God did not want these two fabrics mixed together in making clothing. We do know that linen was priestly clothing that was to be worn by priests when they were performing their worship duties. It may be that God is making that connection here.

INSTRUCTION #8 – How to handle suspicious and allegations of sexual immorality. **22:13-29**

We are going to see some sexual stuff in these next chapters because God knew what people do. He knows what people are capable of doing because their hearts are corrupt.

As near as we may determine, there are four different potential scenarios or cases described here and how God wants them handled.

Case #1 - The case of allegations concerning an unfaithful wife. **22:13-21**

This first case is one in which a husband is married to his wife and he goes into her and he alleges that she is not a virgin. He turns against her, he charges her with shameful things, calls her degrading names and defames her character. Quite frankly he acts like a prudish nut. Well obviously this guy is telling everyone that she was not a virgin. Instead of resolving it privately, he is out telling everyone.

God says here is what you do. Here are six steps to follow:

(Step #1) - The father and mother are to bring out proof of their daughter's virginity to the elders. **22:15**

Now the proof of her virginity would be blood stained sheets off the bed or some cloth that the parents had prior to the wedding that proved she had been a virgin who had gone through some surgical procedure.

(Step #2) - The father shall tell the elders that he gave his daughter to the man and he turned against her. **22:16**

If they can produce that cloth that shows the girl was a virgin, then what that proves is that the husband is a jerk who has turned against his bride on the night of their wedding.

(Step #3) - The father shall tell the elders of the false charges against their daughter and show proof that their daughter was a virgin. **22:17**

This whole thing is embarrassing. But the parents are to show the garment that proves she was a virgin.

(Step #4) - The elders are to chastise and fine the man 100 shekels of silver to be given to the father of the bride. **22:18**

These elders were not to let this husband get away with this. They were to mete out some punishment, including a major fine. The chastisement was to be public and it was left to the elders. They were to fine the man 100 shekels of silver which is about \$100, which was a good sum of money back then.

(Step #5) - The man who made the allegations is responsible to take care of her all his life. **22:19**

Part of the penalty was that he was responsible to financially take care of this woman the rest of her life and he could not ever divorce her. He lied about her and he was required to pay. I'll bet that is a happy home.

(Step #6) - If the allegation is true that the girl was pretending to be a virgin while at home but really wasn't, then she is to be stoned at the door of her father's house. **22:20-21**

Now it is possible that this plan was a cover-up. The woman and perhaps her family wanted her to marry the guy, perhaps for money, so she pretended to be a virgin when she wasn't. In that case, her lying and deceiving would mean her own execution. She was to be stoned.

God hates liars and hates frauds. So this is how this was to be handled.

Case #2 - The case of provable adultery. **22:22**

If a woman who is married is found having relations with another man other than her husband, both are to be stoned. This is not a rape case. This is about two willing people who got involved in committing adultery. God does not want His people intimate with another person's mate. It did not matter if the man was married or not, he was to be executed. You do not tamper with another man's wife.

Case #3 - The case of immorality of an engaged girl. **22:23-27**

If a girl was engaged to a man and another man is intimate with her, if it was consensual, then both are to be killed. If it was not consensual, if she was raped, she is innocent and the man who raped her is to be executed.

Rapists need to be put to death. A few years ago, there was a high-ranking Canadian military commander and colonel, whose name was Russell Williams, who broke into houses, was a cross-dresser and raped and killed two women.

One of the women was going to be married. The Canadians have no sense of justice because this guy was sentenced to jail and he will be eligible for parole in 25 years. That guy should be executed. He is a rapist and killer.

Case #4 - The case of immorality with an unengaged girl. **22:28-29**

If a man found a girl not engaged and he rapes her, he is responsible, if they are discovered. Now the discovery would be due to the fact that the girl told someone. Both could opt to keep their mouths shut.

But if it was discovered, he is to give the girl's dad 50 shekels of silver (about \$50) and he must marry her and he cannot ever divorce her as long as he lives. Now the assumption is the girl wants to marry him. If she decided she wanted to marry him, he was responsible to take care of her for the rest of her life.

INSTRUCTION #9 – How to maintain purity concerning a father's wife. **22:30**

The final case is one in which a father has a wife and the son is drawn to her. We may assume that the woman is not his mother. It is also possible that the father died and the stepmom was still alive. The son was not to have relations with her.

God wants His people staying clear of immoral things. He wants to bless His people and in order to do that, He cannot view them as polluted. Now when we compare these purity challenges to N.T. instruction, we must clearly see a parallel.

In Ephesians 5:5, Paul writes: "For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God."

In Colossians 3:5, Paul writes: "Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience."

God wants His people pursuing what is pure. This is a key to a blessed life on earth and a rewarded life in heaven.

Now let's say as we have gone through this that you have been convicted that you are guilty of breaking one of these nine instructions. Well the Corinthians were guilty, but by faith in Jesus Christ, they had been washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God (I Cor. 6:11).

Believe in Jesus Christ and you are clean.