

Sermon Handout

Divine Prohibitions

Exodus 22:28-23:19

- I.** The Book of the Covenant (Ex 21:1; 24:7) applies the 10 Words
Examples of application to specific cases 21:2-22:27
What love for God and neighbor look like 22:28-23:19
- II.** The layout of the passage 22:28-23:19
Responsibilities to God and to other people (restrictive)
Each one is introduced by an imperative “Thou shalt . . .”
They are 7 in number, arranged as a chiasm.
- A** Tribute to God and God alone 22:28-30
Offer your tribute to God promptly
- B** Do not scavenge for dead meat 22:31
Give the meat to domestic animals; God provides for you
- C** Deal justly with the unfortunate 23:1-3
Be honest and fair to the accused and the poor
- D** Deal justly with personal enemies 23:4-5 *cf.* Mt 5:43-45
Protect his property & his life
See for contra Dt 23:4-6; Ezra 9:10-12
- C¹** Deal justly with the unfortunate 23:6-9
Be honest and fair to the poor, the accused and the stranger (Dt 10:19)
- B¹** Do not scavenge during the sabbatical year 23:10-12
Leave the fruit to wild animals; God provides for you
- A¹** Tribute to God and God alone 23:13-19
Come to the feasts, do not withhold your tribute
- III.** Examining the pairs
- Only one God to whom tribute is due – don’t hold it back
 - God will provide for you (no scavenging)
 - Justice to the unfortunate is essential
 - Maintain justice even to those who despise you personally
- IV.** The central lesson in these commands
Love & service to God, requires justice to our fellow men
The two Tables of the Law are inseparable
Love God, love your neighbor Dt 6:5; Lev 19:18; Mt 22:36-40