

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .

And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”

Let’s Worship God

11th-16th November 2013
Deuteronomy



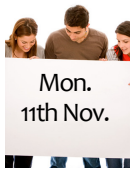
Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

airdrierpcs.org, 01236 620107
Part of the RFCS - rpcscotland.org

Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Mon.
11th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
For you shall go with this
people into the land that the
Lord has sworn to their fathers
to give them,
Deuteronomy 31:7b

reading Deuteronomy 23:9-14 - Living in Character

notes These verses are especially set within the context of warfare. Hygiene was seen to be important to God. Cleanliness is next to Godliness.

But there is more to it than hygiene: 'evil thing' in 9 refers not so much to moral wickedness as to anything that is unbecoming or unseemly or inappropriate. The reason is that the Lord Himself is in the midst of the camp. This is a call, therefore, to God's people to live in character with His calling, even in the ordinary, day-to-day matters of life. If His presence is real to us, it must be important - to us and to Him - that we conduct ourselves in a seemly fashion, and in character with what He has called us to be. Habits and attitudes that are in ordinary circumstances unimportant assume an entirely different significance in His presence. Would we slouch, hands in pockets, in baggy trousers and unbrushed shoes, when having an audience with the Queen? Does a minister's dress, demeanour and attitude in the pulpit matter less? Is he not standing before the King of kings, and speaking His Word?

But the observance of laws and rules is not what true life is about. In the words of one writer, "Though Christianity seems at first to be all about morality, all about duties and rules and guilt and virtue, yet it leads you on, out of all that, into something beyond. One has a glimpse of a country where they do not talk of those things, except perhaps as a joke. Every one there is filled full with what we should call goodness as a mirror is filled with light. But they do not call it goodness. They do not call it anything. They are not thinking of it. They are too busy looking at the source from which it comes".

questions 1. What are some of the benefits of remembering God's presence?
2. Is Christianity just a set of rules?

praise pray Ps. 100A:all
1. Give thanks for our ministers
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Sat.
16th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
For you shall go with this
people into the land that the
Lord has sworn to their
fathers to give them,
Deuteronomy 31:7b

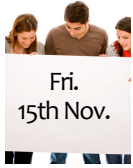
reading Deuteronomy 25:1-3 - Deserving

notes In these verses, regulations are given concerning the administration of justice. When an accused has been convicted and sentenced to be beaten with stripes, the executor is to be careful. The maximum is for forty stripes. The reason for this restriction is to avoid the danger that "thy brother should seem vile unto thee". Justice and punishment are part of God's arrangement for the good order of human society. But punishment is not the same as revenge, and even in justice the dignity of a human being as made in the image of God is to be respected. For the judge as well as the executor of sentence, the sentencing and the prosecution of the penalty ought not to harden their own hearts.

Notice also that the phrases 'worthy to be beaten' and 'according to his fault' emphasise desert. Desert is the only thing that links punishment with justice. It is only as deserved or undeserved that a sentence can be just or unjust. When God's foundations are replaced by our own theories of punishment, we will find ourselves with what seems to be mild and merciful, but which in the end will rob a man of his dignity as a human being.

questions 1. What was the maximum for beating?
2. Who was beaten on our behalf though undeserving?

praise pray Ps. 102A:13-18
1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Fri.
15th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

For you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, Deuteronomy 31:7b

reading Deuteronomy 24:14-22 - Caring for the Poor

notes According to verse 14, servants and employees are not to be abused. Rather they are to be treated with respect and dignity, lest the oppressed should "cry against thee unto the Lord, and it be sin unto thee".

The immigrant and the widow were considered the defenceless people of that time. But God was their Defender. Thus there was no room for mistreatment of them. In verse 18 Israel is again reminded of her own bondage in Egypt where they were refugees, and how Jehovah redeemed them. In verse 19 onwards, the poor and the weak in Israel are afforded protection and provision by the laws of God.

In 19-22 it is the law of gleaning. The idea is that enough should be left over in the harvest field for the poor and needy. This was the food that helped Ruth and Naomi to survive. (cf Ruth 2, also Eph 4:28 enough left over to help others). It is in fact a matter of lifestyle, the adoption of an attitude of compassion that will express itself in this way. As always, the strongest argument for human compassion is the fact of the divine compassion to men (cf Matt 18:28).

questions

1. How were they to treat their employees?
2. What is gleaning?

praise pray

Ps. 102A:7-12

1. Pray that God would enable you to treat others with kindness.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Tue.
12th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

For you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, Deuteronomy 31:7b

reading Deuteronomy 23:15-25 - Vows

notes There is a variety of laws that occupies this section. Some of these seem kind (verse 15,16) while others seem extremely severe (verse 17,18). And yet they both come from the same God. Did you know that according to God's Word, inflexibility is not the opposite of tenderness?

The principle of interest-making is not in itself wrong. But we are not to exploit our fellow human beings especially in their time of need. There must be no hard-heartedness within the family of God.

From verse 21 onwards, we see that the the Christian's word is his bond; God is its witness. And especially in the context of vows made to God, we have a duty to fulfill them and do so at the first opportunity.

questions

1. How does God view vows?
2. What vows have you made?

praise pray

Ps. 100B:all

1. Pray that the Lord would enable you to keep your vows.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
For you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them,
Deuteronomy 31:7b

reading Deuteronomy 24:1-4 - Divorce

notes Here is regulation concerning divorce in special circumstances. It forbids a man's reunion with his divorced wife, if in the meantime she had married another man, even though the second husband had also put her away, or had died.

The Lord Jesus Christ takes up this passage in His discussion with the Pharisees (Matt 19, Mark 10). The Pharisees' intention was clearly to trap Jesus. But Jesus exposes the falseness of their position in holding as they did that the 'bill of divorcement' could be applied to issues other than adultery. According to them, these verses in Deuteronomy could not apply to adultery since it carried the penalty of death.

Jesus refuted them by giving the authoritative interpretation of Moses' words. The bill of divorcement was made 'for the hardness of their hearts', and was no part of the original divine order. Rather, divorce was possible on the grounds of adultery alone. The Pharisees were misinterpreting and misunderstanding Deuteronomy 24, in taking it any other way.

Misunderstanding and wrong interpretation are common problems for those who come to read and study the Bible. There is an understanding of knowledge and an understanding of obedience. The latter is superior to the first. True wisdom is not obtained by reading books, however good they may be; obedience opens the door to enlightenment. Jesus' promise was that He would manifest Himself to those who have and keep His commandments (John 14:21).

questions

1. What does Jesus say about divorce?
2. How should we approach difficult passages of Scripture?

praise pray

Ps. 101:all

1. Pray that God would help you understand His Word.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
- 3 Pray for family matters.



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
For you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them,
Deuteronomy 31:7b

reading Deuteronomy 24:5-13 - Compassion

notes These verses reveal the humanity and compassion of God's law for His people. A newly married man is protected from military service in order to bring cheer to his wife. Israel's lenders are not to be ruthless according to verses 6, 10-13. Fraud and theft are taken seriously in verse 7; the aim is to protect every member of God's family. Notice that in verses 10-13, the debtor, not the creditor was to decide on what the pledge would be, and everything was done to avoid humiliation or hurt to the poor debtor.

Throughout, the emphasis is on the true dignity of humanity, and there is quite evidently in these regulations, the spirit of compassion. In verses 8,9 the consequence of disobedience is made clear: leprosy. And there was a precedent for this: Miriam.

Repeatedly in the gospels we read that the Lord Jesus was moved with compassion. If we are the children of God, then we should bear some resemblance to Him. We too ought to be compassionate, and we ought to be concerned for justice and dignity of our fellow human beings.

questions

1. How do these verses reveal compassion?
2. How are we to treat people?

praise pray

Ps. 102A:1-6

1. Pray that you would be compassionate.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
- 3 Pray for family matters.