

Sermon Notes

Exodus – The Revealing of God’s Glory and His Design for the Chosen #78

“Preserving Justice, Grace, and Sabbath Rest in the New Land”
Exodus 23:1-13

I. Introduction.

A. Separating fact from fiction.

1. U.S. Court Cases: O.J. Simpson, Trayvon Martin

B. God is truth and desires His people to live in, tell, and pursue the truth.

1. Illustration: Lt. Kaffee.

C. Today’s text: Exodus 23:1-13

II. Exposition

A. False witness.

1. Exodus 23:1

a. “False” or “Rumor” – General prohibition against gossip.

b. “Wicked man” – Someone who is definitely guilty.

c. Application to today.

1. There are countless ways we can skew the truth.

Distortion is a subtle thing.

d. False – “unfounded.”

1. Beware of unjustified conclusions concerning others.

2. Philip Ryken

B. Rules regarding minorities.

1. Exodus 23:2-3

a. Difficult to go against the crowd, but at times necessary.

b. “The poor man.” Concern for the poor yet, but preferential treatment by assuming innocence – No.

1. Error of liberation theology.

c. These ordinances were useful to the Judges (Elders) who had to settle disputes.

1. Lev. 19:15

2. Exodus 23:6-7 (We will look at verses 4-5 later).

a. The opposite of verse one.

b. God will insure just punishment.

3. Exodus 23:8

a. “Shall not take a bribe”

1. Hebrew emphasis on the word “Bribe”

2. Close to God’s heart.

Deut. 10:17; I Sam. 8:1-3; II Chron. 19:5-7

4. Exodus 23:9

a. Justice to outsiders.

b. Public justice in view.

c. Question: How well do you relate to people who are the outsiders in your life?

C. Loving your enemies.

1. Exodus 23:4-5

a. “Enemy” can be personal foe or public national figure.

b. Letting the donkey wander away – an easy thing to do.

1. Prov. 24:17; 25:21; Matt. 5:43-45; Deut. 22:4

D. Finally, the Sabbath.

1. Exodus 23:10-12

a. Worship, yes, but in context here, it is more about mercy.

b. Fields fallow.

1. Good agriculture.

2. Lev. 25:1-7; 18-22

c. Sabbath means to C_____

d. Environmental concerns.

1. Land and a_____

E. Do it God’s way and not your way.

1. Exodus 23:13

a. Ending verse for the Book of the Covenant.

b. Review of all areas of laws covered.

c. Do not let other gods be heard on your lips – Ps. 16:4

III. Points for Reflection.

A. Gossip and false reports begin with loose lips.

B. Beware of following the crowd – any crowd.

C. These laws have direct bearing on judges and juries, but also apply to all manner of disputes.

D. “Be careful to do everything I have said to you....” Ex. 23:13.