

Deuteronomy

Lesson #20, Chapter 22-23

This chapter is packed with insights into God’s character and much practical import for our own lives. Spend time with the Lord before you dive into this rich chapter!

1. What principles for conduct can you extract from Deuteronomy 22:1-4 in taking care of your neighbor? How is the notion of “finders, keepers, losers, weepers” at odds here?
2. What issue does 22:5 address? What did God want to protect? See Genesis 1:27.
3. What phrase is included with the command to show how seriously God views this offense? How do Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 show the heinousness of this practice and what it could lead to?
4. In 22:6-7 what curious command is given? What is at the heart of this command? Is it really just to protect the life of the mother bird or is there more to it than that? See Genesis 9:1-3 and Deuteronomy 20:20 to help construct your answer.
5. How does the command of 22:8 follow in the same path as verses 6-7? What does God want the people to be aware of and look out for?
6. Now we come to 22:9-11. Up to this point the theme of the chapter has been protection—to protect the property of others, to protect God’s creation of roles, to protect life. And following these verses we see that theme continued

as God outlines ways to protect the institution of marriage. We know then, that if the verses before are talking about protecting or preserving something and the verses after are talking about protecting or preserving something, then we know that verses 9-11 are also talking about protecting or preserving something. We also know that the Israelites understood exactly what God meant when He gave these commandments because no further explanation is given. However, that understanding has not been passed on to us and commentators have ideas, but they don't know for sure either. What might be some possible explanations for the commands of verses 9-11 under the theme of protecting or preserving something?

7. What command is given in 22:12? What is the purpose of this instruction from Numbers 15:37-41?

8. The idea of using a memorial to help you remember things is a good one. What things do you want to remember about God or things He has taught you and how do you remind yourself of them?

9. Verses 13-30 of Chapter 22 are all based upon protecting the institution of marriage and protecting the marriage relationship, both before and after its consummation. Briefly cite each of the scenarios given and the consequences.

10. What principles for conduct can you glean here that transcend time and apply to us today?

11. These verses alone contain plenty of principles to apply to the protection and purity of marriage. How do Matthew 19:1-9 and 1 Corinthians 6:15-20 round out and add to the instruction given in these verses?

12. To help understand Deuteronomy 22:30, look up Leviticus 18:6-18 and 20:11-12. What do you learn from those verses about the underlying principle of this command? See Genesis 9:20-24; 35:22; and 49:3-4 for examples of this command being broken. Note the situation and the consequences.

13. Review again the areas of protection and preservation that are discussed in this chapter. What *attitudes* toward the protection of property, the preservation of life and the sanctity of marriage govern *your* thinking? Are there any attitudes you need to adjust?

14. Who may not enter the assembly from 23:1-8? Also state any reasons given for their not being able to enter the assembly.

15. What is the *assembly*? See Leviticus 16:33; Deuteronomy 5:22; 31:30; Psalm 22:22, 25; 89:5. Based on what you've learned, who may enter the assembly?

16. Read Isaiah 56:1-8. What do you learn about those who may enter the assembly from those verses?

17. From what you've learned from those verses about who may enter the assembly, what is the purpose of these laws? When would it be necessary to enforce them and when would it be permissible for those people mentioned in 23:1-8 to worship with the assembly of Israelites? For a real-life example read Ruth 1:4, 16.

18. What kind of attitudes does God hold dear for those who would worship Him? Do your attitudes line up with the ones we have studied, or do they need to be adjusted so you can worship with the “assembly”?

19. Regulations for army life are addressed in 23:9-14. What reason is given for purity in the camp?

20. Since the Lord walks with you throughout the day, your life must be holy too. He must not see anything indecent. Consider what you read, what you watch, what you say, think, and do. Are they consistent with the holiness that God desires in those who follow Him? How does the fact that God is always with you shape your personal convictions for holiness? How should that truth aid you in not being conformed to this world?

21. What situation is addressed in 23:15-16? What principles underlie this command? See Exodus 22:21 and Leviticus 19:34. Read 1 Samuel 30:11-15 to see this command acted upon. What do you observe?

22. Deuteronomy 23:19-20 deals with the possibility that a fellow Israelite might be in need of some financial help. Also read 15:7-11. What attitudes were to guide the Israelites toward someone in need?

23. Define *vow*. What guidelines are given about vows in 23:21-23? Read 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 22-23 to see these principles applied.

24. Summarize what the Bible teaches about vows: Numbers 30:1-2; Ecclesiastes 5:4-6; Matthew 5:33-37; James 5:12 (also take into account James 4:13-17).

25. What is the purpose of the commands according to Deuteronomy 23:24-25?

26. Charging interest, not keeping a vow, harvesting more than you can eat are all united under the theme of stealing. How would those areas be ways of stealing from someone? In light of what we have studied, examine your own life. Do you have areas in which you are stealing from others? What are some ways you are going to deal with the situation so that you will no longer be guilty of stealing?

27. Studying these laws helps us see the closeness with which God wants us to walk with Him. Looking at these very specific laws and asking “why does God want them to do that” helps us to see what God desires in every one of His people. What commandments (and the intention behind the law) in this lesson have influenced you to consider your own life and how you are responding to the Lord? List any changes you may need to make in order to follow the Lord more fully.