

Session #26: “JUSTICE FOR ALL-ITS PRINCIPLES” — Leviticus 25:25-55

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (2nd floor, High School—top of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area),
Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net
For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “Site Map”

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Leviticus by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking and Jon Courson.

Questions:

- How much do you think that God cares for the poor?
- How aware are you of the needs of the poor? How committed are you to pray for serving them?
- Can you get a better understanding of God’s principles of justice for all people in this chapter?
- In verse 55, God say the people of Israel are His servants. Paul and Peter say they are bondslaves to Jesus Christ. Do you really see yourself as His servant? His bonds slave?

The Seventh Year and the Jubilee Year -

The word, “land” is used 39 times in chapters 25 & 26. God owned the land (v. 23) and the people (v. 55)!

(Last time):

THE **PURPOSE** OF THE SABBATICAL YEAR - **To give rest** to the land; **To feed the poor** and the **animals; To teach** people to depend on God.

THE **PROCLAMATION** OF THE YEAR OF JUBILEE - It began with **Repentance**— It involved **Release or Return** – It involved **Rest** – It involved **Restoration** -

THE **PROMISE** OF BLESSING FOR OBEDIENCE - The blessing of **God’s Protection** - The blessing of **God’s Productivity**

(This time): THE **PRINCIPLES THAT WILL BRING JUSTICE FOR ALL** - 25-55

Redemption of Property - The redemption of land - 25-28

Lev 25:25 *"If one of your brethren **becomes poor**, and has sold some of **his possession**, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, **then he may redeem** what his brother sold.*

Lev 25:26 *Or if the man has no one to redeem it, **but he himself becomes able** to redeem it,*

Lev 25:27 *then let him count the years since its sale, and restore the remainder to the man to whom he sold it, that he may return to his possession.*

Lev 25:28 *But if he is not able to have it restored to himself, then what was sold shall remain in the hand of him who bought it until the Year of Jubilee; and in the Jubilee it shall be released, and he shall return to his possession.*

Lev 25:29 *"If a man **sells a house in a walled city**, then he may redeem it within a whole year after it is sold; within a full year he may redeem it.*

Lev 25:30 *But if it is not redeemed within the space of a full year, then the house in the walled city shall belong permanently to him who bought it, throughout his generations. It shall not be released in the Jubilee.*

In the case of a house within a walled city - 29-30

Lev 25:31 *However **the houses of villages which have no wall** around them shall be counted as the fields of the country. They may be redeemed, and they shall be released in the Jubilee.*

In the case of houses in the country - 31

Lev 25:32 *Nevertheless the cities of the Levites, and the houses in the cities of their possession, the Levites **may redeem at any time**.*

Lev 25:33 ***And if** a man purchases a house from the Levites, then the house that was sold in the city of his possession shall be released in the Jubilee; for the houses in the cities of the Levites are their possession among the children of Israel.*

Lev 25:34 *But **the field of the common-land of their cities may not be sold**, for it is their perpetual possession.*

Lending to the Poor

The situations that are presented are introduced by the phrase “*If one of your brethren becomes poor*” in verse 25, and “*If one of your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty*” in verse 35, and “*if one of your brethren who dwells by you becomes poor, and sells himself to you*” in verse 39, and “*if a sojourner or stranger close to you becomes rich and one of your brethren who dwells by him becomes poor, and sells himself*” in verse 47.

Four specific situations and the principles that should govern them. Life is filled with changing circumstances; a person may be rich today, but be poor tomorrow. We are told not to trust in the uncertainty of riches - I Timothy 6:17-19.

God's attitude toward the poor is revealed in many passages in the Bible. The word "**poor**" appears 205 times and the word "**poverty**" another 15 times. We are to help them, but not take advantage of them! How does God view the poor? -

Cf. Psalm 9:18; 12:5; 41:1; 69:33; 70:5; 72:2, 4, 12-13; 82:3-4; 113:7; 132:15; 140:12

Cf. Proverbs 14:21, 31; 17:5; 19:1, 17; 21:13; 22:22; 28:27; 29:7, 14; 31:9, 20

In the case of **POSSESSIONS** that must be sold - 25-34

The redemption of houses - 29-34

In the case of Levitical houses & lands - 32-34 - cf. Numbers 35:1-5

Lev 25:35 "If one of your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you.

Lev 25:36 Take no usury or interest from him; but fear your God, that your brother may live with you.

Lev 25:37 You shall not lend him your money for usury, nor lend him your food at a profit.

Lev 25:38 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.

In the case of serious **POVERTY** - 35-38 - cf. Deuteronomy 23:19-20 - cf. 10:17-18 & 24:17

The Law Concerning Slavery

Lev 25:39 "And if one of your brethren who dwells by you becomes poor, and sells himself to you, you shall not compel him to serve as a slave.

Lev 25:40 As a hired servant and a sojourner he shall be with you, and shall serve you until the Year of Jubilee.

Lev 25:41 And then he shall depart from you--he and his children with him--and shall return to his own family. He shall return to the possession of his fathers.

Lev 25:42 For they are My servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves.

Lev 25:43 You shall not rule over him with rigor, but you shall fear your God.

Lev 25:44 And as for your male and female slaves whom you may have--from the nations that are around you, from them you may buy male and female slaves.

Lev 25:45 Moreover you may buy the children of the strangers who dwell among you, and their families who are with you, which they beget in your land; and they shall become your property.

Lev 25:46 And you may take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them as a possession; they shall be your permanent slaves. But regarding your brethren, the children of Israel, you shall not rule over one another with rigor.

In the case of **PEOPLE** who are brothers and must sell themselves to be slaves - 39-46

cf. Deuteronomy 15:7-15; 24:10-15, 17-22

Lev 25:47 "Now if a sojourner or stranger close to you becomes rich, and one of your brethren who dwells by him becomes poor, and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner close to you, or to a member of the stranger's family,

Lev 25:48 after he is sold he may be redeemed again. One of his brothers may redeem him;

Lev 25:49 or his uncle or his uncle's son may redeem him; or anyone who is near of kin to him in his family may redeem him; or if he is able he may redeem himself.

Lev 25:50 Thus he shall reckon with him who bought him: The price of his release shall be according to the number of years, from the year that he was sold to him until the Year of Jubilee; it shall be according to the time of a hired servant for him.

Lev 25:51 If there are still many years remaining, according to them he shall repay the price of his redemption from the money with which he was bought.

Lev 25:52 And if there remain but a few years until the Year of Jubilee, then he shall reckon with him, and according to his years he shall repay him the price of his redemption.

Lev 25:53 He shall be with him as a yearly hired servant, and he shall not rule with rigor over him in your sight.

Lev 25:54 And if he is not redeemed in these years, then he shall be released in the Year of Jubilee--he and his children with him.

In the case of **PERSONS** who become slaves to rich strangers - 47-54 - cf. Isaiah 3:14-15; 10:1-3;

Amos 2:6-7; 5:11-13

THE MAIN **POINT** BEHIND THESE PRINCIPLES – 55

Lev 25:55 For the children of Israel are servants to Me; they are My servants whom I brought out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Consider I Timothy 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich

in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.