

April 26, 2020

“Purity Among God’s People”
Deuteronomy Chapter 23:1-25

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Vv 1-2

Three types of people are excluded from the assembly of the Lord: eunuchs, illegitimate children, and both Ammonite and Moabites. These pertained to religious rites in the home, tabernacle, and later in the temple.

Note that this exclusion from the worship service did not prevent them as an individual from believing in the Lord and receiving the gift of eternal salvation.

At this time in the history of the nation Israel, emphasis was placed on lessons such as the nature of their relationship to the Lord, and to the holiness being required of them due to that relationship of being His people.

Yes, certain groups were banned from the assembly, but as individuals there were people within these groups who found favor with the Lord. Remember how God dealt with a Moabitess named Ruth. Read her statement in the book of **Ruth 1:16**. About eunuchs, remember Philip’s encounter with the eunuch from Ethiopia in **Acts 8:26-39**. God is Holy and His judgements are always right. Meditate on **Isaiah 56:1-8**. Remember, context, context, context, and the greatest of these is context.

Vv 9-14

There are several stipulations listed in this pericope about cleanliness. The huge takeaway for Israel’s war camps was to treat God as holy. God was in their midst and if there was anything improper He would turn away from them. Let us be reminded that God is omnipresent, He is everywhere and He sees everything. Treat God as Holy.

Vv 17-18

Cult prostitution was forbidden. Monies gained in perverted ways were detestable to God. Ponder this, are there ill gained monies today that should not be brought into the church as an offering?

Vv 21-23

God takes vows very seriously! To make a vow and not keep it is sin. Please, do not flippantly make a vow. If you make a vow, keep it. One of the most common vows today is the wedding vow. Be reminded that a wedding vow is between one man, one woman, and God. See **Genesis 2:24**. God is the One who established the marriage covenant.

Vv 24-25

Neighbors, treat each other right! A good place for us to close is; **Matthew 22:34-40**, “But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. 35 One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

We exist to worship and glorify God, to evangelize, disciple, serve, and fellowship.

Help people love Jesus and everyone else.