

Leviticus 24-25 – 1 October 2020

“God-Centered Beliefs: Fine-Tuning Our Faith To Exalt Christ”

Introduction

Throughout Exodus we've seen God's powerful hand in delivering this people Israel out of Egypt

Throughout Leviticus we've seen God's provisional hand in giving Israel what's needed to know / serve Him (The Law and the Tabernacle service)

Tonight Lev 24-25 reminds us to never forget that it's only in a life with God that we can truly find meaning

We often stray into thinking, “I have purpose, I have ability, I can help myself to a ‘good’ life.”

In reality, it's only in Him that we live & move & have our being. We're only here, b/c He put us here!

Today we'll see 5 points of fine-tuning of faith, that focus us on exalting God not man

1st Point Of Fine-Tuning Our Faith: It's His power, not our ability (Chap 24:1-23)

Read Chap 24:1-4 – *Olive Oil Light*

1. Pure olive oil represents the Holy Spirit of God
2. John 9:5 – Jesus said, “As long as I’m in the world, I’m the light of the world”.
 - a. Filled w/ H.S. He’s shining God’s light
3. Matt 5:14 – Jesus said, “Ye are the light of the world...let your light shine that they may glorify your Father in heaven”.
 - a. It’s the H.S. in us that shines what the world doesn’t have
4. Turn to Zec 4:2-6 – God’s power, not our own

Read Chap 24:5-9 - *Showbread*

1. Bread w/ incense shows God’s Word w/ prayer
2. Matt 6:11 – Jesus said, “Give us this day our daily bread”.
3. The power to discern life is in God’s eternal truth, not our opinions of the matter.

Read Chap 24:10-16 – *One who curses God*

1. Blaphemed= *to pierce*, Cursed= *to make light of*
2. This is an example that proves the importance of the point God just made w/ the light & the bread
3. This man felt he didn't need the Lord, that he had all the power & ability he needed in and of himself
4. That kind of exaltation of man and spite to God was punishable by death.

Read Chap 24:17-23

1. This section is to show the value of human life.
 - a. People are God's image-bearers, not animals
 - b. Vs 17-18 – Murder a person, you're put to death; murder an animal, restore it
2. So just as we don't spitefully curse God's name, we shouldn't spitefully treat God's image-bearers
 - a. God calls for justice in our treatment of people
3. God has placed His power in us to rule creation
4. Recognize that we only have power, b/c of His power in us! Our efforts are helpless w/o Him!

2nd Point Of Fine-Tuning Our Faith: It's Him that provides, not the land or resource (Chap 25:1-7)

Read Chap 25:1-7 – *Every 7 yr Sabbath Land Rest*

1. Every 7 years don't plant & let the land go.
 - a. This is good ecology! Let nutrients replenish
 - b. This would also demonstrate great faith
 - c. Even observant Jews today turn this into a work of the flesh & not of God:
 - i. They sell their land 7th yr & work it, then buy back, so they didn't "work their land".
2. Jer 25:6 – Don't seek after other gods
 - a. The Lord provided, they didn't earn it, yet they sought to earn their way apart from God
3. Jer 25:11 – 70 yrs punishment in Babylon
 - a. Why 70 yr of being scatter out of the land?
 - b. Read II Chr 36:21 – They never let land rest
 - c. Read Lev 26:33-35 – God always knew
4. Is it your job that provides, or is it God that provided your job and everything you need?

3rd Point Of Fine-Tuning Our Faith: His purposes are eternal, not earthly ones (Chap 25:8-24)

Read Chap 25:8-13 – Every *50 yr Jubilee*

1. Day of Atonement every 50 yrs was to be a release of all people back to their family land
2. God owns land, buying/selling is temporary.

Read Chap 25:14-17

1. Buying / selling is valued based on how long until you release it back to them at year of Jubilee
2. Earthly transaction's value is limited

Read Chap 25:18-22

1. Takes faith to trust that God would bring blessing and safety

Read Chap 25:23-24

1. Don't live meaninglessly b/c earthly things will "reset".
 - a. Live w/ respect that it all belongs to God
 - b. Something bigger is coming than this earth, live for that

4th Point Of Fine-Tuning Our Faith: His purchase was to get us, not land or earth (Chap 25:25-34)

Read Chap 25:25-28 – *Redeeming back early*

1. Kinsmen can redeem land that was sold back at any time, don't have to wait until year of Jubilee
 - a. He would then get the land and all its people and possessions.
 - b. If there's a widow that belongs to the land, the nearest kin should raise up kids with her to the dead man's name (IAW Deut 25)
2. Boaz/Ruth illustrate this (Turn to Ruth 4:1-6)
 - a. In order to Boaz to gain Ruth, he starts with the land, b/c ownership of it determines all.
3. Christ did for us, what Boaz did in type.
 - a. Rev 5 shows Jesus coming to take back ownership of the whole world. Why?
 - b. Read Matt 13:44– To get YOU, the treasure
 - c. Luke 4:18 – Jesus quotes Isa 61:1, that He's come to proclaim liberty to the captives

Read Chap 25:29-31 – *Exception For City Houses*

1. Houses in walled cities would be commerce that didn't involve land or agriculture/
2. This exception for houses in walled cities shows that the focus is on the land.
3. Land has a final static destiny & owner, not houses. Houses are temporary.

Read Chap 25:32-34

1. Levites didn't have land, only cities.
2. God wants these cities retained, to be spaced out nicely to teach and serve the people all over.

5th Point Of Fine-Tuning Our Faith: His protection of us, not enslavement of us (Chap 25:35-55)

Read Chap 25:35-38 – *Fair Treatment of Servants*

1. If a fellow Israelite is poor, help him w/o charging interest
2. Just as God did for you – ***This should always be our motivate, in all things***

Read Chap 25:39-46

1. Vs 39-43 – If a fellow Israelite is completely destitute & becomes your indentured servant, treat him w/ dignity as an employee
2. Vs 44-46 – If foreigner becomes your indentured servant, u can make a profit selling as employees.
 - a. You still treat them w/ much dignity

Read Chap 25:47-55

1. If a fellow Israelite is completely destitute & becomes an indentured servant to a foreigner, all the rules of the Jubilee apply

Application Of The Indentured Servant or Slave

1. All of this system was designed to bring someone OUT OF the state of destitution.
2. God put in place great protections for the poor to be treated with dignity and respect
3. Falling into poverty wasn't of God's doing, but while waiting for their own personal redemption, they were to be treated well.

Conclusion

Sometimes we drift into a very man-centered view of God and life. So let's get precise w/ some elements of our faith in Christ.

1. **We live by God's power, not our own ability**
 - a. Just b/c God allows us to be apart of His activity, doesn't mean it's our power.
 - b. We're just tools used of God; w/ His H.S. & His Word to guide, we're empowered!
2. **It's God that provides, not our resources**
 - a. Are you depending on your job, or on the God who gave you that job?
 - b. Israel had to go w/o their land for 70 yr to realize that it is God's provision they need
3. **God's purposes are eternal, not earthly**
 - a. Earthly transactions can only benefit so much
 - b. Live for God's eternal purposes while temporarily here on earth

4. **God's purchase was to get people, not stuff**
 - a. God made the whole earth to service us
 - b. His intention for redeeming the earth was simply to gain us. What love!
 - c. Jesus' earthly ministry wasn't to teach a good way of life, but to present the way for YOU to be brought to His side eternally
5. **God wants to protect us, not enslave us**
 - a. God always provides for the poor, which we are.
 - b. God goal has always been to set us free from the enslavement of our flesh, the world and the devil.