

Healing Actions Bible Study 4: Pay It Back & Forward

Numbers 5:5-10

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Important Information

- This passage includes a regulation for repaying a wrong that one person within the Israelite community commits against another member of the community when the guilty party confesses to the crime
- The ram of atonement mentioned in verse 8 is the offering required to repair the broken relationship
- The remedy mentioned in our text applies to people who show a willingness to admit wrongdoing and make amends for it
- Paying it forward involves repaying the debt to another party connected to the one owed when the person owed the debt either cannot be or does not want to be repaid

Questions

1. Do you believe it's important to pay back a debt?

2. What can people who want to repay a debt do if the person owed cannot be reached?

3. What's your first impression of the lesson?

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4. There are several healing actions in today's lesson: confession, an attempt to make the offended party whole, adding 20% interest to the repayment and an atonement offering to repair the broken relationships created by the offense. While modern day believers may offer some version of the first three, why do you think we stopped providing modern versions of the atonement offering?

5. When we fail to keep our commitments to God, we create a debt that needs to be repaid. However, God's not interested in being paid back so how can we pay our debt forward?

6. The rules in today's lesson are only binding for the person who commitment the offense. And yet, the whole faith community can be negatively impacted when one member harms another. When that happens, what can the faith community do to heal?
