

Part 1 – False Report, Mob rule, Favoring poor in Judgment, Helping Your Enemy, Persecuting the Poor in Judgment

Chapter twenty-two covered many laws (judgments) that further explain how to keep the Ten Commandments. From theft, to carelessness, to borrowing things, to witches, to bestiality, to sacrificing to the only one true God (YHVH), to not oppressing foreigners or those who are poor and needy, to not exacting usury on fellow Israelites, to taking pledges on raiment, to not reviling God or the rulers of the country, to giving God our first fruits to not eating torn meat... the twenty second chapter of Exodus is full of useful laws that are still very much relevant in our day and age and we would be much better off if we obeyed them. Though many of these laws have a spiritual lesson (and can only truly be kept from the heart), they also need to be kept in the physical application (except for the blood sacrifices, Heb 10:10) or else we cannot enjoy the peace and prosperity that God's Word promises for obedience to His Laws. Just one glaring example is how much our people suffer today because of usury. We have unsound money because our monetary system itself IS debt. If we had no debt, we would have no money. This enslaves the entire population because there will always be people who are in debt and unable to get out of it, *including our government*. So, it's necessary to abide by God's laws both in spirit (from our heart) but also in our actions. As James so aptly put it...

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

James 2:18-20

So, it should be quite apparent why we study these laws of God: they are useful, helpful and relevant to all of society, even today in our 'high tech' world. But our Heavenly Father is not done giving Israel Laws that explain the basic (foundational) laws that apply to individual conduct (the Ten Commandments). We'll have one more chapter of law giving before we get back to history in this great book of Exodus. So, without further a due...

Exodus 23

1 Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

This law further explains the Ninth Commandment, which says: *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour* (Ex 20:16). What's the difference between a 'report' (in verse 1) and 'witness' in Exodus 20:16?

“**Witness**” is #5707 and means: a *witness, testimony, a recorder, i.e. prince*:

“**Report**” is #8088 in the Hebrew and it means: *something heard*, i.e. *a sound*, **rumor**, *announcement; abstractly, audience*. It’s been translated in the KJV as - bruit, fame, hear (-ing), loud, report, speech, tidings.

Again, God is further explaining what the Ninth Commandment means. He is specifically telling us *not* to engage in any form of gossip (talebearing, slander, etc.) for that’s also ‘bearing false witness’. The nature of gossip is always malicious. And, as we found out when studying the Ninth Commandment [via this link: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus/105] even *listening* to gossip (entertaining it) *is being a part of the gossip*. Exodus 23:1 confirms this for the word ‘report’ means something heard, as in a rumor. In other words, we cannot use gossip as a form of ‘proof’ in the court of law to falsely witness against someone (anyone). And we dang sure should not try to use it in our own little ‘kangaroo court’ in life to get others to hate and ostracize someone. Gossip can easily turn a whole community against an individual who has truly done nothing wrong. So, *not* gossiping is an important part of obeying the Ninth Commandment.

And, it’s not just in what we say; we should not be participating in bearing false witness (gossiping) in any way, shape or form. Oftentimes even a shrug of the shoulders or a ‘look’ on your face can bear false witness. The purpose of God’s Laws is NOT to try to figure out how to ‘get around them’ but to learn how to treat others fairly and justly. We must never forget the true definition of love is not an emotional feeling of fondness for someone but that *love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law* (Rom 13:10). God’s Laws teach us how to treat each other rightly; how not to harm each other physically *or spiritually*. It teaches us how to truly love them by doing what’s right towards them in our thoughts, our words and our actions. So, this applies not only to our words but also to helping *in any way* to devise or perpetuate a false report. It could be printing (or re-printing) a false report, listening to or spreading gossip, or in making subtle insinuations even. There truly are so many ways which one can further a ‘false report’, which is why it is so critical for us to watch very carefully what we believe, how we act and what we say. After all, Jesus warned...

35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

*36 But I say unto you, That **every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.***

37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.
Matt 12:35-37

If we are accountable for even the words we say in casual conversations, we will be held accountable for the other ways we participate in sin too. Our words only reveal what goes on in our heart, which is why we must learn to cut off sinful thoughts and desires before they have time to take root into our heart because that’s what causes them to manifest through our actions. We speak about what we hold dear in our heart; the truth of the cleanliness or defilement of our heart manifests itself through our words and our actions. That’s why it’s so important to clean our heart for, no matter what we tell ourselves, our actions will not align with God’s Word if our

heart does not. As James points out in James 3:5: *Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!* Proverbs adds to this thought: *Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth* (Prov 26:20). We should also remember that to align ourselves with those who ‘raise a false report’ is truly to align ourselves with Satan (the Devil) himself. Jesus warned that Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44) because he was the first entity to begin to lie (to even think of doing such a thing) and it has been through all his lies that he’s been able to convince so many of God’s children to rebel against their Creator. So, even when not in a court of law, aligning ourselves with those who use their tongue as a weapon *for evil is to be a part of evil ourselves*. As Prov 17:4 states: *A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue*. Even listening to (entertaining) lies is a sin in the sight of God. Consider that next time you hear gossip! (Hint: asking someone where they heard the gossip from is always a good way to keep them from gossiping to you again. Usually they are so offended that you even asked such a thing they’ll stop right then but if not, it’s at least a lead in for you to then stop them from continuing on in with wicked words).

Exodus 23

2 Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:

This is another critically important law to understand because it explains how wicked it is to allow evil to prevail, *just because that’s what a lot of people want*. Today we have a very common misconception about ‘democracy’. Our politicians, educators and even Churches tells us that democracy is righteous yet democracy because in a democracy the majority gets to rule. So, the question must be asked, what if the majority wants to do wickedly? What if the majority wants to outlaw Christianity? Is that righteous? Of course not! But that is exactly where democracy takes us. Democracy is actually just a *transitional* form of government. It transitions a society from ‘rule of law’ (God’s Law, that is) to tyranny (either a dictatorship or an oligarchy). That’s why democracy has been touted by the political cohorts as a virtuous form of government. In truth, *America’s Constitution* (which has been dead for a long time now; those in power have not obeyed it for over a century now) *is not democratic*. America was formed a Christian Republic. Now, a republic is supposed to be founded upon a set of laws that everyone is supposed to obey. But not all countries are founded upon God’s Laws. For example, China is also a ‘republic’ but their laws are not founded upon Christian laws (but satanic laws). However, their leaders adhere to their laws about as good as the American leaders do (most leaders in either country give a crap about the laws on the books; they just make up their own laws as they go along). To be fair, some politicians in America seemingly try to get American back to the laws of the Constitution but the whole system is so deeply corrupted that it’s beyond repair. It’s like God told Israel of old...

1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

3 The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

4 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

*5 **Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.***

6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

7 Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

Isa 1:1-7

Verse one could have just as well said the vision was concerning America and the other Christian nations! As the saying goes ‘if the shoe fits, wear it!’. Indeed, the shoe does fit here for America’s government is so corrupt it cannot be fixed. Those who claim it can be are either naive, delusional or lying. Notice what is said in verse 5? God asks: *Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.* He is basically asking why He should chastise Israel anymore because all they do is rebel against Him, chastising does not work. It does not matter how many problems America (or the other Christian nations) have, they don’t repent and turn back to the Word of God. Now, some Christians say we need ‘revivals’ to get us back on track. But all revivals do is put people on an emotional trip for a few weeks or months but *it does nothing to help the country in the long term*. The Word of God needs to be taught (line by line, chapter by chapter), listened to and obeyed by the majority of the citizens in our country so that the hearts of our citizens are cleansed. That’s what needs to happen. However, the Word of God tells us that won’t happen. As God said in Isaiah, the head is too sick to heal. Our country is past the point of repentance. We are going to be judged. And what is to come?

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. [note the subject is the return of Jesus Christ]

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, [Paul warns a ‘falling away’, which means an apostasy will happen before the true Jesus Christ returns] and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; [that ‘man of sin’, who is also called the ‘son of perdition’ is actually Satan himself – Ezek 28, Isa 14]

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. [Satan will exalt himself above everyone on earth after he is kicked out of heaven, Rev 12-13, Daniel 8:11, 11:36-37]

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? [Paul warned them about this in person but they forgot so he is writing to remind them]

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. [Paul's reminder is that: Jesus cannot come back until Satan is kicked out of heaven, to this earth, to test the world]

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. [The world is already being set up to receive Satan as the 'Messiah' or 'Savior' of the world. However, Satan is being held in heaven so he cannot come until he is kicked out by Michael after the 144,000 are sealed – Rev 7, 12]

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: [only after Satan comes to the earth pretending to be the Messiah will he be exposed for the fraud he is; the two witnesses will expose him and then Jesus Christ will return and expose him as well]

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ['Even him' is referring to Jesus Christ. Jesus will return only after Satan comes to this earth and works wonders and signs to deceive people into thinking he is the Messiah. Satan will use all the power he has to get them to believe he's really the Savior. He will lie and show signs to make himself appear like the legitimate Messiah of the world, even though he's a fake]

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. [Satan knows how to make unrighteousness appear as righteous to those who are Biblically illiterate and that is why they will fall for his lies; they don't love the truth, they love themselves and only want the physical pleasures of life, which Satan will promise them]

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: [God will allow people to believe in Satan's lies (strong delusion) because...]

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. [all those who want to believe a lie will be allowed to fall for Satan's lies. God is testing us on earth to see who we will believe – His Word (witnesses) or Satan and his fallen angels lies?]

2 Thess 2:1-12

Much commentary has been added to the above scripture to help explain how clear God's Word is about the future of the world. The only 'revival' that is in our future (America or otherwise) is SATANIC. We shouldn't be promoting any revivals. **We should promote the Word of God being taught in truth and in entirety.** What good does it do to get people to come to Christ and then not teach them who Christ really is? It literally sets them up for deception. It sets them up to believe that Satan is the "Messiah" (the "Savior of the world) because Satan will be coming before the true Jesus Christ returns. And no one is going to rapture out. We're all going to be here during the great tribulation. Those who are Biblically illiterate won't know it. They won't think it's the great tribulation; they'll think it's the Second Coming of Jesus Christ... when it's really Satan and his fallen angels! A little bit of truth is a dangerous thing. Revivals do not teach people the truth, they play on their emotions and set them up to worship Satan. God said...

17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

18 The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him **in truth**.

19 He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

20 The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.

Ps 145:17-20

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and **in truth**.

John 4:23-24

If we don't have truth, we cannot truly worship God, or His Son, Jesus Christ. Nor will God hear us if we don't come to Him in prayer ***with truth in our mind and heart***. If we love lies (believe in them), *our prayers are hindered* (1 Pt 3:12). So, pray all you want for a revival but that's not what God wants. **He wants truth in our 'inward parts'**, *which is our heart and mind* (Ps 51:6, Jer 31:33). You don't get truth from a revival. You get truth from studying Gods' Word (2 Tim 2:15). *Emotional trips only open people up to evil spirits* but the Word of God cleanses our heart and mind so we can truly worship God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength (Mk 12:30).

To get back to Exodus 23:2, the point of this digression is to understand that just because the majority of a nation thinks we should cast God's Laws out of the government and other institutions does not mean we should agree or follow them in any way. This is how Satan's rebellion came about. As Rev 12:4 and the parable of the sower explain (Mth 13), an entire 1/3 of God's children followed Satan in the rebellion against God Almighty (YHVH) while nearly the other 2/3 rode the fence, refusing to make a commitment one way or another (perhaps they were just waiting to see who would win). But, (as the parable to sower explains) there were a few who actually stood with God and those people are what the Bible calls the 'elect'. They are not special; they are merely faithful servants of God Almighty (YHVH) and Jesus Christ. They are spoken of in Ephesians 1:4 [to study this chapter: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/237>] and Romans 8:28-33 [to study this chapter: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Romans/39].

So, following a multitude *is not always the right thing to do*, but following God's Word IS *always* the right thing to do. Again, this is why we must study His Word *for ourselves* (2 Tim 2:15), **so we know what we are to do in order to truly please (obey) God**. Getting a multitude (mob rule) to do evil is a common tactic of Satan's to subvert nations as well as pervert righteous judgment. This is why courts were established because all too often 'vigilantes' (or mob rule) 'hang' the wrong person, because *emotions reign* instead of the facts being presented (2-3 witnesses to establish a matter as God's Word demands in Deut 17:6, 19:15, Mth 18:17).

Also, we shouldn't overlook the latter part of this verse. Let's look at it again.

Exodus 23

2 Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; ***neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:***

Our words should not be formed to cause anyone to turn away (decline) people from the truth. Remember, to ‘wrest’ judgment means to *stretch, spread out or bend away* (as in moral deflection) (#5186). So, our words should not be used to pervert judgment (the truth) in any way shape or form. Not in courts, in conversation, in written form or in songs, movies or social media.

This verse is also important because it addresses a fundamental truth about human behavior: *we are easily influenced by others, especially large groups*. Some call this ‘mob mentality’, ‘herd mentality’, ‘groupthink’, or even ‘crowd psychology’, but whatever the name you call it, God’s Word addressed it thousands of years ago and *warns us not to participate in evil no matter what the majority says or does*. We have to be devoted and loyal to God first and foremost. This applies to everyone. The problem is that most people will change depending on who they are around. This is why politicians are so easily corrupted when they go to Washington D.C. They may start out with good intentions but, because most people are spiritually weak individuals; they are easily corrupted (compromised). The same thing happens to people when they go to get an education in a university or even in a seminary. Truth is often not taught even in Bible Colleges: the traditions of man are. And if you think you need to be ‘appointed’ by man to serve God, you’ve already been deceived. While it’s not wrong to be monetarily compensated for teaching God’s Word (1 Cor 9:1-11, 1 Tim 17-18), all too many pastors ‘preach for hire’, which is what angers God so very much (Deut 23:18, Micah 3:11). All too many preachers are afraid to teach the truth because it’s offensive to many. Instead, they want to teach things that are pleasing to the people (2 Tim 4:3-4) because *that’s how they make their money!* God hates this and speaks against this in so many places in both the Old and New Testament.

Again, Biblical illiteracy is what is wrong with the world and God lays most of the blame for this on those who claim to be Pastors, Preachers and Teachers (Jer 23, Ezek 13, 34). But that doesn’t get the rest of us off the hook. Even the citizens were to be non-compliant with evil, even if evil is done by the majority. Truth and justice (righteous judgment) cannot be thwarted for any reason and all too often truth and justice are perverted in a democracy (where the majority rules). This is why God put forth this law to Israel so early on. Notice He gave more laws explaining the Commandments later on in the books of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. But these in Exodus were given directly after the Ten Commandments. So, *God knew that Israel would have a tendency to lean towards a democracy so they could try and get away with evil*. Indeed, we will see this at work in a few chapters when we cover Exodus 32, but Israel would also do this again in the rebellion of Korah, which is recorded in Numbers 16.

We should be very careful when following anyone, especially the majority. Think about this, next time you’re on a jury, a school board, on the board of directors for a Church, or even within your own family. ***God see’s what we do and how we respond to peer pressure***. He expects our loyalty no matter what others say or how they treat us for our loyalty to God. Let us never forget James’ admonition...

*4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? **whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.***

5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?
James 4:4-5

Exodus 23

*3 Neither shalt thou **countenance** a poor man in his cause.*

The word ‘countenance’ is #1921 and means: *to swell up* (literally or figuratively, active or passive); by implication, *to favor or honour, be high or proud*. Moffet translated this as ‘not being partial to a poor man’s plea’. In other words, just because someone is poor, does not give them a right to thwart justice. For example, if they stole something, they had to pay restitution. Just because they could not afford restitution did not make them exempt from restitution. Instead, they had to be sold into forced slavery until all the restitution was paid. They could not be allowed to ‘get off the hook’ for paying restitution just because they didn’t have the money to pay it. We learned about this back in the last chapter, Exodus 22:3. So basically, *we are not to show compassion for an unjust cause*. Thus, this is another critical law for our day and age for justice is often perverted for the status of a person. But judgment is not to be perverted no matter what. Whether the person is rich or poor, popular and influential or not, the law applies equally to everyone.

But sadly, (and disgustingly) we often see bleeding heart ‘Christians’ who have misguided compassion. Many even try to get murderers off the death penalty because they claim they have repented. Perhaps they did but God still demands the government put them to death. God warns *we are not to have compassion (pity) in the wicked*. This is written in many places: Deut 7:16, 13:6-10, 19:11-13, 16-21, 25:11-12. Murder is such a wicked act (even if they say they’ve repented for it) that it cannot go without punishment. No where did Jesus change the punishment for things that require capital punishment. Instead, He said that He did not come to destroy the law but to fulfill it (Mth 5:17-20). He changed only the way the law is kept in regards to blood sacrifices and other rituals but He did not change the government’s duty to punish evil doers. Instead, Jesus Himself warned He would punish the wicked when He returns...

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

*23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, **ye that work iniquity.***
Matt 7:21-23

Notice how, although these self-righteous hypocrites think they did many wonderful things for Jesus, *they truly worked iniquity* (vs 23). And at His return, **Jesus won’t forgive them for it**. He won’t allow them to govern in His Kingdom; they will have to be put in ‘prison’ (often called the ‘furnace of fire’ or ‘outer darkness’, Mth 13:47-50 for example) and forced to listen to teachings

of truth the entire Millennium. If, at the end of the Millennium, they have truly repented their actions prove it, they will be able to live. However, if they are found to be incorrigibly rebellious, then their very soul will be put to death (Rev 20). God won't pity anyone who absolutely refused to obey Him, especially after they have had opportunity after opportunity to change their heart and their wicked ways. This is why Satan is already sentenced to death (Ezek 28, Isa 14, Rev 20, 2 Thess 2). This flesh life and the Millennium are God's tools to help bring His children back to Him as well as sort out those who refuse to do so.

Exodus 23

4 If thou meet thine enemy's ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again.

5 If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him.

These two verses cover either a person you hate, or a person who hates you. The word “enemy” is # 341 and it means: *hating*; an *adversary*. It comes from #340, which is a primitive root that means: *to hate* (as one of an opposite tribe or party); hence *to be hostile*. So clearly, the point is that we are to do what's right to others despite our feelings for them *and this includes 'tough love'* as Lev 19:17 prescribes: *Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.*

We're given two examples of how we are to help others that we don't like (or hate). First off, he says that if we see their ox or ass (donkey) lost, we should help bring it back to them. To us today, this might mean calling the police to help because many (most) people in our days don't know how to handle animals this large. But the point is, an ox and an ass are just *examples* (1 Cor 10:11). This could be applied to *any* animal (pets for example) as well as vehicles today (animals were and are still used for transportation and to work fields). Truly, if we see anything that is lost, we should try to help find it's owner and this very much includes helping our Heavenly Father save the souls of His 'lost' children!

Secondly, verse 5 lays out the principle that we should be helpful to those we don't like, so long as doing so is not actually harming them [Learn more in the special study: **Isn't It Okay to Help; What's the Difference?** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/292>]. The example tells us the Israelites were to be willing to help people who they hated (or didn't like) 'unload their donkey' (ass) even if they really didn't want to. This might be equivalent to helping an annoying neighbor unload his car or with something else they needed help with. Just because we do not use animals in the same way we used to, this command is not negated. It is to be translated and applied to our day and age. The point is, God gives us two examples of how we are to treat our neighbors (other people) even if we don't like them (even to the point of hating them).

This law also has great spiritual applications for it is our duty as a Christian to help all people (whomsoever will) 'unpack' their sins. No matter if we like them or not, we are to plant seeds of truth whenever the Holy Spirit gives us unction to do so. We must not refuse to share the truth

with someone just because we don't like them. Of course, all seeds of truth must be planted *with discernment* and timing is an important factor as well. But the point is, we shouldn't refuse to do so just because we don't like someone. Those who are 'terrible' people are those who need our Heavenly Father's truth more than anyone, are they not? We should never forget the words of our dear Savior when He said that: *they that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance* (Mark 2:17).

This is not the only place God's Word speaks on this topic. The great book of Deuteronomy also speaks of it and gives some more details...

1 Thou shalt not see the brother's ox or his sheep go astray, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt in any case bring them again unto thy brother.

2 And if thy brother be not nigh unto thee, or if thou know him not, then thou shalt bring it unto thine own house, and it shall be with thee until thy brother seek after it, and thou shalt restore it to him again.

3 In like manner shalt thou do with his ass; and so shalt thou do with his raiment; and with all lost thing of thy brother's, which he hath lost, and thou hast found, shalt thou do likewise: thou mayest not hide thyself.

4 Thou shalt not see thy brother's ass or his ox fall down by the way, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt surely help him to lift them up again.

Deut 22:1-4

[To study Deut 22 more in depth: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Deuteronomy/74]

Again, God gives examples for us to learn what loving others means. We must understand that true love is not just a feeling – *it's also action*. We do not need to have fond feelings for everyone (that would be impossible) but we must treat them fairly and justly. That's why it's written...

Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

Lev 19:18

8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.
James 2:8-9

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matt 22:37-40

9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

*10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore **love is the fulfilling of the law.***

Rom 13:9-10

Again, love doesn't mean we must have fondness or warm fuzzy feelings for others. God knows us well and certainly does not expect us to having feelings of fondness *for everyone*. But He does expect us to get the hate out of our heart. This is revealed in Jesus' teachings. Jesus takes these laws one step further (as He truly does with all the law). He tells us (as does Lev 19:17) that we shouldn't even hate others *in our heart*. This means we must learn to forgive (*from the heart*, Mth 18:35) and let go of the negative feelings in our heart, even if we don't forget what they did (so we don't let them do it to us again). In our heart, we must let go of the hate so it does not consume us with bitterness, resentment and hatred for *these are all things that corrupt our soul*. Sin stems from a dirty heart and ***these negative emotions are dirty (unclean) spirits***. They need to be cleaned out. That's why Jesus said not to hate others. Let it go.

While there might be times you need to take someone to court (as in murder and rape charges or even theft, etc.), many times things we feel 'offended' about just need to be forgiven so we can get on with life and not 'stew' about it forever. Bitterness and resentment and hatred *will pervert your thought process* and this is the ultimate reason we must learn to forgive. Someone who does not like you does not care if you forgive them or not; in fact, they likely think they did you no wrong. So, your bitterness, resentment and hatred for them *will only hurt you* and *cause you to become a very bad person over time* because these negative emotions will defile your soul, pervert your thought process and your desires and your intentions. This then is the true meaning of Matt 5:38-48. This passage has been greatly perverted to try to get people to be walking matt's who will allow wickedness to flourish. Jesus simply teaches us how to grow up (spiritually) and get along with each other. [Study more on the Sermon on the Mount with this special study: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/399>]. Romans sums it up well...

17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Rom 12:17-21

As the saying goes 'two wrongs don't make a right'. And, we cannot 'overcome evil' by becoming evil ourselves (Psalm 37 warns of this. [Study it in depth with the special study called: **Faithful Instead of Fearful** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/419>].

Treat everyone according to God's Laws (this is what being righteous is all about) no matter how they treat you!

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

2 Tim 3:12-14

Exodus 23

6 Thou shalt not wrest the judgment of thy poor in his cause.

This law concerns legal judgment in a court of law but is certainly to be abided by in our every day decision making as well. Again, God's Laws have very broad applications in life. To 'wrest' judgment means to *stretch, spread out or bend away* (as in moral deflection) (#5186). It's the same word as in verse 2 that tells us we shouldn't follow a multitude to do evil nor *wrest* judgment because a bunch of other people want us to. So, to 'wrest' basically means to pervert judgment. If you're a judge or on a jury, you should take these Scriptures to heart. Just because someone is poor, does not mean they don't deserve to be vindicated for the wrong doings done to them. Likewise, just because they are poor does not mean they should be able to get away with murder, theft, or any other crime. A person's financial status, power or status in the community should have no sway whatsoever on the judgment. Everyone in society should be compelled to obey God's Word outwardly (by the government) and then the Pastors are supposed to be teaching people how to obey God's Word from our heart. The book of Deuteronomy (of course) addresses this...

18 Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment.

19 Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

Deut 16:18-19

But this is by no means the only place this is written. Being partial in judgment is what the Bible terms as being a 'respector of persons' and there's quite a bit written about it...

6 And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment. [Ps 11:4, Jer 17:9-10]

7 Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

2 Chron 19:6-7

*23 These things also belong to the wise. **It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.***

24 *He that saith unto the wicked, Thou are righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:*

25 *But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.*

Prov 24:23-25

*To have **respect of persons** is not good: for for a piece of bread that man will transgress.*

Prov 28:21

2 *But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.*

3 *And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?*

4 *Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

5 *But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;*

6 *Who will render to every man according to his deeds:*

7 *To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:*

8 *But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,*

9 *Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;*

10 *But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:*

11 *For **there is no respect of persons with God.***

12 *For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;*

13 *(For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.*

14 *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:*

15 *Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)*

16 *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

Rom 2:2-16

*And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there **respect of persons** with him.*

Eph 6:9

22 *Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:*

23 *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*

24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and **there is no respect of persons.**

Col 3:22-25

17 And if ye call on the Father, who **without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work,** pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

1 Peter 1:17-19

Our Heavenly Father (God Almighty, YHVH) judges each and every person according to His Law. He also has mercy upon those that sincerely repent. It does not matter who they are: rich or poor, influential and powerful or not – God judges the same for everyone. We all are held to the standard of His Word (Laws) and we all fall short of it, *for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God* (Rom 3:23). In fact, *we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away* (Isa 64:6).

Furthermore, James tells us that even in our every day life we should not be partial in our dealings with other people...

1 My brethren, **have not** the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, **with respect of persons.**

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

5 Harken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

9 But **if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.**

10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

James 2:1-10

We must learn to use discernment based upon God's Word (Laws) and not our personal feeling for or against someone. Feelings (emotions) greatly skew decision making (judgment). So, even though this law not to 'wrest' (pervert) judgment concerns a court of law, it very much applies to our every day life *and also to ourselves*. If it is not ok for others to sin (which it's not) then it's not ok for us to sin (this is what breeds self-righteous hypocrites). Likewise, just because others sin, that does not make it ok for us to sin (Psalms 37 addresses this). We shouldn't be tempted to sin just because others do, and appear to 'get away' with it. As the proverbs says...

*10 My son, **if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.***

11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

13 We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:

15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

18 And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.

19 So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

Prov 1:10-19

The word of God warns us not to partake of evil just because others are 'doing it'. We all have a personal responsibility to study God's Word *and obey it*. And even when the entire world 'wonders' after the 'beast' (Satan's wicked governmental system) when the antichrist (who is Satan himself [learn more: **Antichrist, Satan or Man** -<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/345>]) is on earth, does not mean we should wonder after it or participate in any evil system. *We cannot pervert judgement even in our own decision making or else we will reap the ill consequences for doing so.*

In 2 Pt, chapter 3 [study it via this link: https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Peter/277], Peter warns about the great shaking that will come at Jesus Christ's second Advent. He reminds us that God shook the world when He deposed Satan from power (due to his rebellion) and He is going to do it again after Satan is cast to the earth and allowed to deceive as many people on earth as he can into thinking he is the 'Messiah' or 'Savior' of the world [study this more in depth with the special study called: **Do Not Be Deceived** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/235>]. The reason so many people will be deceived by Satan is because *they do not know how to rightly judge in their own life: they cannot see their own sins because they are willingly ignorant of them, just as they are willingly ignorant of the first earth age* (2 Pt 3:5). [Learn more about the first earth age in the special study on **The 3 Word Ages** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/190?single>]. Peter then goes on to warn us not to be enticed (pervert our judgment or critical thinking) to follow the wicked...

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

*17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, **beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.***

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:14-18

So, once again we see how *God's Law is spiritual* (Rom 7:14) because truly obeying (or disobeying) God's Laws stems from the heart (Mth 15:13-20, Mk 7:20-23). So, in studying these laws we must learn to 'rightly judge' even our own soul. *We must be willing to face who we really are and 'judge' our own heart (desires, emotions, intentions) and mind (thought process) to see the sin we unwittingly keep there.* This is the essence of truly worshiping God: admitting your own sins, repenting for them and striving to kick them out *and keep them out*. We must never forget that, in order to truly worship God, we must have **truth** in our inward parts, which is our heart and mind (John 4:24-25, Jer 31:31). Writing (programing) God's Word into our heart and mind is the essence of worshiping Him and how we will find eternal life, through our blessed Savior and King, Jesus Christ (Heb 8:10, Heb 10:12-20).

13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Eccl 12:13-14

AMEN.