**BCM Bible Study: December 2/3**

**Exodus 20:22-21:36: The Law Part 1**

What role do you think the law of the OT played in the life of the ancient Israelites and their relationship with God?

* In what way do you see people (or yourself) trying to make Christian “law” a way of salvation? (being saved by good works)

How did people of the Old Testament view the law in the following passages? **Read Deuteronomy 32:44-47** and **Psalm 119:129-136**.

* Do you think of the law of God in this way? Describe your relationship with God’s law.

The New Testament seems to have more of a mixed review of the law. **Read Romans 4:13-15**, **Galatians 3:19-24,** **Matthew 5:17-20.** What is the relationship of the law with the gospel?

Idols and Altars: **Read Exodus 20:22-26**

The instructions given in verses 25-26 lead the Israelites to worship in a way that is specifically different from how Canaanites worshiped. Why would this be important to God?

* **Read 1 Peter 2:9**. What does it look like for the church to be holy?

**Slaves**: **Read Exodus 21:1-11**

* Why do you think topics regarding slaves is covered first? (See 22:21, 23:9)
* What would you say is the general principle for how slaves should be treated?

God wants to make a way for slaves to be free and financially independent.

* What does this tell you about God’s heart for the poor?
* **Read Matthew 25:41-46.** Jesus was highly concerned with the poor and calls us to do the same. How can we take can of the poor?
* One interesting aspect of this passage is that only Israelites are in view – enslavement of foreigners is not mentioned. How does this shape your understanding of the passage? How does this inform the way we treat one another within the church body?

**Injuries**: **Read Exodus 21:12-36**

* What would you say is the general principle of this section?
* In what way do you see God’s concern for justice in these verses?
* What do we learn about God-given human responsibility in this passage?

**Read Matthew 5:38-41**.

* What does Jesus say about the law of retaliation? Is he dismissing the law?
* What situations might you face that retribution is an option for you? What would it look like to follow the example of Christ?
* In what way do you see the heart of God in this section? How does this inform the way we do justice to one another?

**Challenge**: Follow the BCM Advent devotional on social media (begins Nov. 29). Families could do this together!