**BCM Bible Study: January 27/28, 2021**

**Exodus 22-23:19: The Law Part 2**

Personal Property: **Read Exodus 22:1-17**

* What is the general principle of this section?
* Verses 1-4 appear to advocate for self-defense in certain situations. In what situations is self-defense OK? When should we turn the other cheek?
* What does this section teach us about the Bible’s views of personal property? How do we balance this with the New Testament’s concern for giving to those in need and the church sharing everything amongst themselves? (See Matthew 25, Acts 4:32)

Worship and Social Responsibility: This section mixes religious laws with social ones. This points to at least two truths:

1. The authenticity of your worship is demonstrated in your conduct towards others.
2. In God’s eyes, there is no divide between spiritual/non-spiritual realms of life. God’s law pertains to every sphere of life.

* How do these truths challenge you personally?

**Read Exodus 22:18-20**

* These verses feel very foreign to us, but their heart is to protect the purity of worship. What does it look like to protect the purity of our worship?

**Read Exodus 22:21-28**

* What is the general principle of this section?
* Why is Israel called to treat the disadvantaged this way?
  + The American mentality is one of individualism, achievement, and “work hard and you can be whatever you want.” How does this way of thinking tend to color your view of others?

**Read Exodus 22:29-23:9**

* 22:29-30 are concerned with whole dedication to God by giving him your first and best. What does this look like for you? What makes this difficult?
* What is the general principle of 23:1-9?
  + In what situations could it be easy to follow the crowd in doing wrong? (23:2)
  + There is sometimes a difference in what *feels* right and what *is* right. For instance, it might feel right to show favoritism to a poor man in a lawsuit (23:3), but this is not right. When have you seen this distinction?
  + What is God’s reasoning for living in the ways described here? (v.9)
  + As people who have experienced the oppression of sin, we should have empathy and care for oppressed people. Who is someone towards whom you want to show more care and empathy (as opposed to frustration/judgment)?

**Read Exodus 23:10-19**

* What is God’s primary concern in keeping the Sabbath (both the day and the year)?
  + When is obedience to God most difficult for you?
  + What are some things that you feel like sustain you? What do you feel like you can’t live without/are too attached to?

Challenge:

What is that thing you feel like you can’t live without/are too attached to? Sports, social media, a certain food, etc. Abstain from that thing this week and instead, make an intentional effort to be obedient to God and spend time with Him.