

The Presence: Vows
Leviticus 27

INTRODUCTION

The Vows (vv.1-27)

1. Words are Important to God
 - a. Attached to God
 - b. Associated with holiness
 - c. **Proverbs 20:25**
2. Vows are Dangerous
 - a. A vow is a dedication of a person to the Lord (in some way -- self, property, land, etc) usually in exchange for deliverance or favor from God
 - b. Vows are not mandated
 - c. Vows should be kept, having determined their costliness
 - d. **Judges 11:29-40** (the case of Jephthah)
3. Vows of person (**vv.1-8**)
 - a. There was a valuation determined by God (through priests)
 - b. *"We may not conclude from these figures that women are considered of less worth in the OT. It is merely that adult males were more capable of and valuable for the heavy work of the tabernacle. A bride was purchased in ancient Israel; a groom cost nothing! This proves nothing!" - D.A. Carson*
4. Vows of Beast (**vv.9-12**)
 - a. Simple - Keep the Word of God
 - b. Walk and observe
5. Vows of Property (**vv.13-25**)
 - a. Houses (**vv.14-15**)
 - b. Land (**vv.16-25**)
6. Vow Restrictions (**vv.26-27**)
 - a. Firstborn already belonged to God
 - b. Valued, but you cannot promise something that already is His

The Vows of Devotion (vv.28-29)

1. Devoted things cannot be sold or redeemed
 - a. No matter what
 - b. Devoted to God (stands and is costly)
2. People devoted to destruction will be destroyed
 - a. Most likely deals with the wartime mentality Israel was to have going into Canaan
 - b. Makes clear God CAN do this sort of thing
 - c. EVERYTHING & EVERYONE has a purpose in God

The Tithes (vv.30-34)

1. God owns everything
 - a. Whole things - not an age of money
 - b. This would apply to all
 - c. Therefore, God has a purpose for everything
 - d. We wouldn't have anything if it weren't for God (common grace)
2. We are to trust God's purposes (**vv.33-34**)
 - a. First fruit insures that no matter what, we yield to God what God requires of us
 - b. Proves at what God wants is our joyful obedience (He doesn't need our goods, but He deserves our joy)
 - c. There is something here about substitute and the thing made holy (but it shall not be redeemed)

Principles Applied

1. Christ in the Text
 - a. **Hebrews 6:13-14**
 - b. **Hebrews 7:7-11**
 - c. **Hebrews 7:20-28**
 - d. Jesus is the only sufficient substitute (all of our efforts to determine what is good in God's eyes will fall horribly short)
 - i. Every broken vow
 - ii. Every broken promise

- iii. Every intent to use possessions for selfish gain
 - iv. Jesus is the one who fulfilled all of God's promises and kept all of God
 - v. For God He is every kept promise; every kept law; every sacrifice; every priest
2. The Christian
- a. WE ARE TO TRUST WHAT GOD SAYS IS ACCEPTABLE AS HOLY IN HIS SIGHT.
 - b. Let's reiterate: God owns it all (you, your animals, your house, your land, your family, your money). In the same principles of holiness, if it's partial it's not holy. So, what do you have that you're withholding from God as a holy, set apart thing for His purposes? **THERE IS NO DIVISION OF HOLINESS!**
3. The Church
- a. Realize that you are commanded by God to be holy, that means set apart for a sacred purpose. It also means that everything around you is for God as well (time, family, possessions). So, it makes absolute sense that the final charge here in Leviticus would be similar sounding to James -- your holiness is directly tied to how you think about and steward your possessions. It's one thing to have some general "God-sense" about what you have, yet continually think of how you can spend money on yourself.
 - b. The Tithe, for instance, is more than just financial provision for the church. It is a built in reminder by God that (not unlike the Sabbath) He is the maker and giver of all things. You are to be reminded in your giving that God owns it all; and give understanding that principle.
 - c. The fact that all of this valuation went through priests is telling. Though we know that these are shadows and types, they were administered through an office pointing to Christ. We tend to manage our churches (especially church finances and properties) through business models rather than Christ and principles of holiness.
 - d. This is partly what we are going to address this summer and battle together: Treasuring Christ above all things in the home, church, and world. Part of that relates to how we treat our earthly treasures. So, part of our battle is to:
 - i. Read the Bible through in 90 days
 - ii. Pray and fast one meal each week during that period
- iii. Commit to increase our giving by \$200, \$100, or \$50 more per month.
3. The Seeker
- a. Realize that all you are pursuing and going after, is really not yours and it's not designed to give you lasting joy.
 - b. Only the maker and giver of gifts can do that, Jesus Christ.
 - c. Aren't you tired of always pursuing the next "thing" whatever that may be? You keep going from thing to thing, because they do not last in their satisfying joy. Jesus can and does! Treasure Christ, not treasures.