

the Royal

MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9

Week 12: "Loyalty Part 2"

In the continuation of the study of Biblical law, we focus this week on the 10 Commandments. There is always a lot of growth and conviction when we are exposed to the commands. The study of these commandments requires us to confront sin and repent. Hopefully as we do the devotions this week, we realize the change that needs to occur in our hearts.

Two major objectives this week:

1. Review the rules for looking at the biblical narrative of the Law. Much like last week, this will enable us to be familiar to the proper method of interpretation and application.
2. In continuing with the outline of "Read, Reflect, and Respond" we will narrow our look at the 10 Commandments to the 7th Commandment as stated in Exodus 20:14, "You shall not commit adultery." What we want to look at and study is the meaning of adultery, and what that looks like for us today. The languages may have changed, but the pursuit of purity has never changed. If there is anything that we get out of the study this week, hopefully it is what it means for us to stay pure.
3. Utilize the study notes under each question as you see fit to formulate the study. Or do your own separate study if necessary. We want to expose the sin, so that we may repent and continue in our sanctification in holiness.

Even if you are unable to follow the entire curriculum, or answer any of the questions, you are encouraged to be aware of the study notes and facilitate discussions that will meet these two objectives above.

In Him,

Rock Church Small Group Team

Part 1: Opening/Recap Weekly Challenge/Small Group Sermon Discussion

Opening:

- Open in Prayer
- Worship (optional)
- Recap Week 11 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

Recap Week 11 Weekly Challenge:

- 1. Recite Hebrews 4:9-10.**
- 2. Discuss experiences practicing the Discipline of Humility.**

Small Group Sermon Discussion:

- 1. Review and discuss the rules of studying Old Testament Law as explained by Miles during the Sunday sermon.**

Sermon Notes ("Read" ONLY, does not contain "Reflect and Respond")

- 1. Identify which of the three relationships the law is giving the Israelites guidance on.**
 - A. Relationship with God
 - B. Relationship with fellow Israelites
 - C. Relationship with Gentiles
- 2. Identify which of the three categories of the law is being taught.**
 - A. Religious Rituals
 - B. Ethical
 - C. Civil

Discovery: Ask what attitude or behavior the laws were teaching the Israelites to be loyal to? Keep in mind, they were required to be loyal to the letter and Spirit of the Law. The letter of the law is the 'word for word' application. The Spirit of the Law represents the 'heart of God' behind the law.

- 2. After reviewing the 10 Commandments in the sermon, which one do you find hardest to obey and why?**
- 3. Miles stated the Law was more like "wedding vows" than rules. How does that encourage you to study the Law, if you typically wouldn't study it in the past?**

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Exodus 20:14 (Adultery)

Read Exodus 20:14 (Adultery):

All Christians affirm the 10 Commandments, however not all Christians obey them. More so, we as sinful man, have the tendency to justify certain actions that may be contrary to the commandments. In our "Read, Reflect, and Respond" portion of the study we want to narrow in on adultery. The hope is that we can look at the term biblically, and apply it so that if there is any trace of adultery found in us, we can remove it. As a starting point, we will look at select verses that affirm the position of adultery of sin, then we will give deeper as to what this means for us today:

Adultery as viewed by Scripture

- ▶ Adultery was punishable by death under the covenant given to Israel (cf. Lev. 20:10-12).
- ▶ Adultery brings about death as a result of its nature (cf. Prov. 2:18-19).
- ▶ It produces a moral insensibility (cf. Prov. 30:20; 2 Cor. 12:21).
- ▶ In biblical history it corrupted a whole land (cf. Hos. 4:1-3).
- ▶ In certain circumstances, adultery resulted in the permission of divorce (cf. Matt. 19:7-9).
- ▶ It excludes people from Christian fellowship (1 Cor. 5:1-13).
- ▶ It excludes from God's kingdom (1 Cor. 6:9-10; see **Regeneration** below).
- ▶ Adultery was also used figuratively toward false teaching (cf. Rev. 2:14-15; 20-22).
- ▶ Also used figuratively to define friendship with the world (cf. James 4:4).

Forgiveness for Adultery in Scripture

Just as every other sin, we can be forgiven by committing adultery. The following examples of forgiveness are broken down by four different categories:

- ▶ **Man:** Has the ability to forgive if one is a victim of an adulterous relationship, or be forgiven by somebody if we were adulterous (cf. Judg. 19:1-4).
- ▶ **Christ:** He has forgiven us of all unrighteousness because of His act of redemption on the cross. The greatest example is the story of the woman caught in adultery (cf. John 8:10-11).
- ▶ **Repentance:** We are commanded to repent from adultery, especially as a Christian as we are now free from sin. Paul explains this in the book of Romans, and we also see an example from King David after his grave sin with Bathsheba (cf. Rom. 6:20-23; 2 Sam. 12:7-14).
- ▶ **Regeneration:** This allows the Spirit to completely to transform us, to remove those desire, so that repentance becomes possible (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Definitions of Adultery

Finally, in order to properly apply the violation of the commandment of adultery to our everyday lives we need to properly define the term. Adultery would appear to be a simple definition, but we will see that the definition is much deeper than taking a first glance:

Old Testament

- ▶ The Hebrew word *na'aph* is our English word adultery. The following are defined as adultery using the word *na'aph*, with the amount of times used:
 - Adultery (x 17)
 - Adulterer (x 8)
 - Adulteress (x 4)
 - Adulterous (x 1)
 - Women that break the wedlock (x 1)

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Exodus 23:

- ▶ Typically used in the imperfect tense, meaning it has happened quite often in the past, and needs to come to an end quickly. Thus the reason for it becoming a commandment.

New Testament

- ▶ The Greek word for adultery as found in 1 Cor. 6:9 is *moichos*, meaning unlawful intercourse with the spouse of another.
- ▶ It is also figurative language to describe apostasy. Apostate living is the turning away from faith in Christ, to returning back to the ways of the world.
- ▶ This is also a way of describing people as harlots spiritually. The best way to describe the outcome of harlots is found in Rev. 21:8, and removal of those who participate in immoral living.
- ▶ Immoral living is defined in the Greek as *porneia*. This word defines all immoral lusts and living such as pornography, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, etc. Anything outside the biblical structure of one man and one woman in marriage is defined as adultery.
- ▶ Rather than reading Exodus 20:14, discuss the definitions about adultery listed above with the group.

Reflect Exodus 20:14 (Adultery):

1. Read Matt. 5:27-30 as a group. Why does Jesus list something like lust in the same category as an external adulterous affair?

- ▶ The main idea is pursuing a life of holiness (cf. 1 Pet. 1:16).

Respond Exodus 20:14 (Adultery):

1. What has been your experience with any form of immorality? What have been any shortcomings or failures you have had in this area? Or were you directly affected by somebody else's adulterous or immoral lifestyle?
2. With faith in Christ we have the ability and responsibility to repent. What are practical ways to pursue repentance from this sin?

- ▶ The most obvious response would be to pray and study His Word. However, this is amongst the most popular reason for accountability relationships.
- ▶ The fact is most all of us deal with this sin in one form or another. Strongly encourage living a holy lifestyle with integrity. Advise the uniting of an accountability partner, to help hold to a higher standard of obedience.

Part 3: Weekly Challenge

- ▶ **Scripture Reading Guide:** Go through the devotions that correspond with each day. These are given to everyone in their lesson plan every week. (July 19-July 25)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** "Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." **1 Cor. 6:11 (NASB)**
- ▶ **Bible Study Tool:** Navigate through www.biblios.com and discover the great resources available for free for your personal gain.
- ▶ **Spiritual Formation Practice:** Each week we will introduce a "spiritual discipline" that each person can try to adapt to their personal devotion. This week is the **Discipline of Confession.**

James 5:16 states, "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed..." This doesn't need much more explanation than that. The discipline is finding an accountability partner to confess your sin to. This is someone that won't beat you down but build you up. This person doesn't justify your sin, but wants to see you through the struggles in order to be free from the bondage of sin. This is a relationship that you will be grateful until the day the Lord brings you home.