

BIBLE SMASH!

Study: Leviticus 19: 2-5. Key verse:2

All of the chapter 19 is related.

Memorize: Matthew 5:48

Notes:

Analyze: The background information...

Topic: Holiness

Leviticus 19:2-5.

Verse 2: This is our call to be Holy. According to the American Heritage Dictionary Holy has several meanings:

- 1) Belonging to, derived from, or associated with a divine power; sacred.
- 2) Regarded with or worthy of worship or veneration; revered: a holy book.
- 3) Living according to a strict or highly moral religious or spiritual system; saintly: a holy person.
- 4) Specified or set apart for a religious purpose: a holy place
- 5) Solemnly undertaken; sacrosanct: a holy pledge.
- 6) Regarded as deserving special respect or reverence: The pursuit of peace is our holiest quest.

Definitions 1 and 3 are the most specific to us, although you may want to share the other definitions with your group.

Chapter 19 is the only place in Leviticus where Moses was instructed to recite the entire chapter, and to the whole community. It applies to everyone. Other areas were meant for specific people - but

here it is meant for everyone. To be holy is not just for the priests. It for the entire body of believers. The literal translation of verse 2 is:

“Holy shall you be, for Holy am I Yahweh your God.”

The emphasis is definitely on being Holy. To the priests it means: You are not above the law or better than anyone else nor should you neglect your people in order to worship God more for yourself. To the people it meant: Just because you are not priest does not mean you do not have to have the same standard to live by...To be Holy.

If you read all of chapter 19 you will find that Holiness is not just separation from certain things (the “do nots”) but it is also separation to certain things. To be Holy, in my opinion, here is not talking about being the same as God, or just following his commandments, rather it is a condition of the heart to want to be like God.

Verse 3: From the original translation to respect your mother and father means: do not do bad things, do not interrupt them, do not contradict them, do not act like them (take on their role as a parent and act on their authority when it has not been given to you). It also means to take care of them and provide for them, dress them, help take care of them and provide for them (referring to when they are unable to do these things on their own weather because of old age or injury). You

should have these behaviors not because you fear the wrath of your parents but because you love and respect them. Honor your parents by treating them well.

Obeying the Sabbath is placed in the same verse as taking care of your parents to show that the importance of your relation between you and your parents is just as important as your relationship between you and God. (ouch! For some of us)

Verse 4: is reworking the first and second commandment. In short - make sure nothing comes between you and God. Not money, not other people, not other desires - even to do good...like to feed the homeless. We can become so wrapped up in doing good for God that we forget to spend time with God. To the people of Israel "other gods of the pagans".

Verse 5: Summarized, it is not the act that is pleasing, but the attitude one has while performing the act. God sees the heart not the deeds.

Matthew 5:48.

Verse 48 is from a context where Jesus is talking about loving those that do not treat you kindly or loving your enemies.

Perfect in this passage is not referring to moral perfection but "truth sincerity". To be perfect like God is to be gracious and merciful.

Share: Is there anything that you have learned that you would like to share with others or anything that have learned from listening to someone else share? Write it here...

Honor: Thought

Jesus Christ is the best picture God ever took.

- from a little girl in a Sunday school class.

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You are a living photograph. What will others see when they look at the picture of your life?

Leader's Guide: Questions for discussion...

Leviticus 19:2-5

- 1) In your own words define Holiness: (you may share the dictionary definition after you have heard the students definition)
- 2) Who do you think this "being Holy" applies to?
- 3) Is it fair for God to have the same expectations from us that he expects from his priest or ministers? Why or why not?
- 4) Do you think we can actually be Holy like God? Why or why not?
- 5) What do you think being Holy like God means here in verse 2?
- 6) I am looking for real life answers here - not Sunday school answers... What are some ways we respect our parents? (after that list) what are some ways we disrespect our parents?
- 7) Would you consider taking care of your parents part of respecting them, such as when they get old, or if they get injured?
- 8) Which is more important - observing the Sabbath or honoring your parents? (there is no right answer but try to play the devils advocate here just to get them thinking some more)
- 9) What are some things you, personally (not a generic person), tend to put before God sometimes? Answers may include sports (kids play games, adults stay home from church to watch pro games on TV) , homework, friends, money, music, personal attitude (not wanting to do what you know is right) . Ask each student individually: what are some ways you can work on just one or two of the things you have listed? (This may be a chance for you to form some accountability with your students)
- 10) Why is it important to obey God's laws?
- 11) Which is more important- doing a good deed or having a good attitude? Can a person do good things with a bad attitude or do nothing at all with a good attitude?
- 12) Why is it important to have a good attitude (a good heart) when we do things?

Matthew 5:48

- 1) What does Jesus mean when he says we should be perfect like his dad? (heavenly father)
- 2) Do you think that it is possible to be perfect like God? If so how, if not, why do you think Jesus asked us to that? (explain the meaning of perfection from the notes to the students)
- 3) What changes can we make in our live to fit that meaning of "Christian Perfection"?

General Question

How do Leviticus 19:2 and Matthew 5:48 relate to each other? (in short - God had always wanted us to be like him, this requests has not changed over the thousands of years that have gone by.)

Credit

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