

# “Objects of Worship”

**Study:** Exodus 20:18-26

**Reading:** John 4:7-24, Romans 12:1-3

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:22

## Exodus



One year, when my children were little, we took a trip to a larger zoo. Most of the kids were excited to see the large animals and the unique animals that were on display, but my boy wasn't really amazed by the animals. He was more interested in things like the zoo map or his attention was drawn to various objects that were part of the display (like vent covers) rather than the animals themselves.

Today, we are going to see how God instructed the Israelites not to make ornate altars so that they wouldn't be enamored with the man made creations that easily could draw their attention away from God.

### What Does the Bible Say?

While God was revealing the ten commandments to Moses, all the people saw and heard were flashes of lightning and the sounds of thunder and the sounds of a trumpet. It is not clear if the sound was a trumpet or if that was just a description of the loud blasts of noise that were taking place around the mountain. Whatever it was exactly, we may not know, but we do know that it made the people greatly afraid. They did not want to get any closer than they had to because the whole atmosphere caused them to tremble. They told Moses that they would listen to him as he spoke to them, but they didn't want to hear God Himself because they didn't think they could survive through it (vs 18-19).

Moses had a completely different view of God than the people did. Though God's presence on the mountain was powerful and amazing, the God that Moses had started to get to know wasn't a God of anger and vengeance. Though God displayed His power like He did to help the people see and understand His greatness, He did not want the people to be afraid of Him. He wanted them to have a proper fear of Him. God wanted them to believe that He had the power to do what He said He would do. This meant that if they sinned, they would face His judgement, but if they followed Him, this same power would do amazing things for them (vs 20-21).

Contrary to what many people think, God gave many more laws to Moses than just the ten commandments. After the ten, God continued to give more commands beginning with the guidelines that they were to follow when making altars. God repeated the fact that He did not want the people to make images representing Him, a common practice of pagan nations, and when they would make altars to offer sacrifices unto God, they were not to be full of images. The pagan nations around them would often decorate their altars with images of their gods, but God did not want this. He did not want the focus to be on the earthly object of the altar, but instead wanted it to be on the sacrifice they were making to their God. God would bless them when they offered sacrifices unto Him and we will read about many of the commands given surrounding sacrifices. The stones that were to make up the altar were not to be cut or shaped, but were to be rocks that were piled together. In addition to this, the altar was not to be too high in the air where the priests would have to go up several steps (a common practice in those days). Again, the whole emphasis was on a simple altar so God would be the center of the worship rather than the sacrifices or human objects(vs 22-26).

### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you find yourself worshipping objects or worshipping God? No, you don't have an altar that you worship at today, but it is still easy to worship the physical thing rather than the God those things are supposed to draw your attention to. For instance, there is nothing wrong with having a nice looking church building, but many people place a greater emphasis on the way their church looks rather than on what the church is. The church is made up of those believers who gather together to worship God, though many people view church as the building or a set meeting time. It is also easy to worship a style of music or music performance rather than the God that the music is to be directing our praise to. Though certain styles of music that you like have the ability to enhance your true worship, it is very easy to let the artist or the artistry distract you rather than lead you into the worship of God. Take time today to evaluate your worship of God and let God reveal to you if you place a higher priority on objects of worship than you should.

### **Suggestions for Prayer**

\* *Ask God to help you worship Him in spirit and in truth.*

List some of the things that the people saw on the mountain (vs 18)?

How did the people respond (vs 18)?

Why do you think God appeared this way?

What did the people say in response to the presence of God (vs 19)?

Why do you think they responded this way?

What did Moses tell them not to do (vs 20)?

What does the reaction of fear to the presence of God indicate?

Can you think of other instances in the Bible where men were told not to fear when faced with the presence of God?

Why did Moses say God had come (vs 20)?

What do you think it meant that God was going to test the people (vs 20)?

How can a proper fear of God help keep you from sinning (vs 20)?

Why do you think we are told the people stood at a distance (vs 21)?

How did God start out the commands He was about to give (vs 22)?

Why do you think He started this way?

What did God tell them not to make (vs 23)?

What regulations did God give about the altar (vs 24-26)?

How would this altar be different than the altars of the pagans?

Why do you think God commanded this?

# “Treatment of Others”

**Study:** Exodus 21:1-17

**Reading:** Joshua 20:1-9, Ephesians 6:1-9

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:22

## What Does the Bible Say?

When Americans hear the word “slavery” our minds go back to the period before the Civil War and that is often our only view of slavery. Slavery has existed for thousands of years, and has looked different throughout different times and cultures. God made laws concerning slavery, which didn’t necessarily mean that God was in favor of it. God also made rules concerning divorce and remarriage, though we know that He hated divorce. Slavery was such a common part of the society of that day and the view on it was much different than the way it is viewed today. Remember that the Israelites had just come out of years of slavery and they didn’t necessarily hate the idea of slavery, but they viewed it as just a part of the way society worked.

To understand this more, we have to understand how slavery worked. There were different levels of slavery and different reasons why people would become slaves. Conquering nations would make it a common practice to bring people back from the countries they conquered and make them their slaves. Others would take people captive and sell them into slavery. God spoke out against this type of slavery in verse 16 when He declared that if a man stole another man and sold him, it was wrong. Anyone who knowingly bought a stolen man would be subject to the death penalty.

Though some slavery was not morally right, it did not mean that slaves were always mistreated. Think of Joseph after he was sold into slavery. He was placed in command in Potiphar’s house and had a fairly nice life in slavery for the years he was a slave. People would also end up as slaves when they had financially rough times and were forced to go into slavery to pay off their debts. Others chose to become slaves, realizing they would be able to eat and survive if they were slaves. Slaves weren’t always lorded over. Many of them lived lives just like employees in a business. Understanding that slavery was more than what the United State often made it to be where people were only treated like possessions will

help us understand why God made rules concerning slavery.

The Hebrews, at times, would own other Hebrew slaves, but a slave could only serve for six years and would be set free in the seventh year. If he went into slavery as a single man he would be allowed to come out as a single man. If his master gave him a wife while in slavery, he would not have the right to take his family with him out of slavery but could make the choice to become a permanent slave. If he made that choice, he would have a hole drilled through his ear and have some type of earring to indicate that he was a permanent slave (vs 1-6).

If a man sold his daughter as a slave, she would be treated differently than the male slaves. If the master didn’t like her, her family would have the opportunity to redeem her (buy her back). He wouldn’t have the right to sell her to a foreign nation. In this situation, it appears that the man would have bought her to be his wife, but then, after a while, chose that he didn’t want her. In that case, he could not mistreat her. He was responsible to provide for her as if he was married to her. If an owner bought a female slave to be a wife for his son to marry, he was to treat the slave girl as his own daughter. If the slave owner did not do those things for the girl that he bought, she would be able to be released without having to be redeemed (vs 7-11).

God also revealed how sacred human life was to Him by declaring that anyone who struck another man to kill him would also be killed himself. In situations where there was no intent to kill, but it was an accidental murder, God was going to establish cities of refuge where the murderer would flee to until his case had a chance to be heard. Any intentional murderers could not be allowed to live, but needed themselves to be put to death because of their actions (vs 12-14).

Anyone who chose to hit their father or mother was to face the death penalty. By this, God was establishing the great need for man to respect and honor his or her parents. Not only were children not to hit their parents, but they were not to curse them either. Though the assumption is that parents would be good parents, this command is not given a qualification to only good parents. No matter how much a child disliked his or her parents, they were to give honor to his or her parents and not lash out in anger towards them (vs 15,17).

## Suggestions for Prayer

\* *Ask God to help you treat others with love and respect.*

What were the Israelites to do with Hebrew slaves they bought (vs 2)?

Why do you think God made this regulation?

Who was supposed to be freed with a slave (vs 3)?

What regulation was given in verse 4?

What choice was a slave given (vs 5)?

What sign would be given that a person chose to be a permanent slave (vs 6)?

Why do you think a man would sell his daughter as a slave (vs 7)?

What limit was an owner given on a female slave he purchased (vs 8)?

How was a female slave to be treated if she married the owner's son (vs 9)?

What was a slave owner required to do if he had more than one wife (vs 10)?

How would a woman be allowed to be set free (vs 11)?

What was to happen if a person killed another person (vs 12)?

What did God establish to ensure justice (vs 13)?

What does verse 14 indicate about justice (vs 14)?

What was to happen to a person who hit his father or mother (vs 15)?

Why do you think God established such a strict punishment for this?

Who else would be subject to death (vs 17)?

Are these all rules that we should still follow today? Explain.

## ***“The Law Is Important”***

**Study:** Exodus 21:18-32

**Reading:** Galatians 3:19-29, Psalm 19:1-14

**Memory** Proverbs 3:22

### **What Does the Bible Say?**

Anger is an emotion that can quickly turn into something far greater when it is not controlled. We are warned many times in the Scripture about the danger of not controlling our anger and here in this passage the Israelites were given guidelines on how to treat those who hurt others when acting in anger. If a man used an object like a stone or even his fist to hit another man and cause him great injury, that man who inflicted the pain would be responsible to help pay for the losses that the injured man might incur. The losses were not “mental anguish” like much of the suing that goes on today, but they were to cover the man’s financial obligations while he was recovering from his injuries (vs 18-19).

If a man chose to punish his slave and that punishment went out of control, causing the slave to die, the owner would be punished by having to forfeit his life. If the slave survived and recovered, nothing would be done to the owner. Though it may sound coarse when the Scripture says “for the slave is his money”(ESV) the point that was being made is that if an owner beat his slave, he was only hurting himself because it was like causing harm to something you owned. The owner would lose his slave for the time it took for the slave to recover and would have to help pay to nurse the slave back to health (vs 20-21).

If a pregnant woman was hit so that it caused a pre-mature delivery, the man who hit her would have to pay some type of fine that would be determined by the judges. If the unborn child or the woman lost their lives because of the injuries that occurred, that man would have to pay with his life. The punishment would match the actions. If a man caused a tooth to be knocked out, he would have to pay with his own tooth being knocked out (vs 22-25).

Punishments that were given out to owners of slaves were a little different. If a master injured his slave and caused permanent damage to the slave’s body parts (losing an eye or tooth) the master would not have to pay with losing his own, but would have to let the slave go free (vs 26-

27).

Regulations were also given for injuries that were caused by animals. If a man was gored by an ox and it caused the death of that man, the ox would be stoned to death and would not be able to be eaten, yet the owner would not have to pay. The owner would be held liable if he knew that his ox had a tendency to attempt to hurt people. If the owner knew of the problem, but took no action and his ox killed a person, then the owner would also lose his life (vs 28-29).

If the family of the person whose life was taken by the animal did not want to see the owner die, the owner could pay the price requested by the family to redeem his life from death. If the ox hurt or took the life of the slave of another person, the owner would pay the master for the loss of his slave in the amount of 30 shekels of silver and the ox would also be stoned to death (vs 30-32).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you see the importance of justice as God revealed His Law to His people? God knew that for men to get along, those who committed crimes or were negligent needed to pay for their crimes. Though sometimes the punishments given may appear to have been harsh, this was also meant to be a deterrent to people causing them to think twice before they took action. Though the threat of punishment, even severe punishment, will never stop crime completely, it does act as a deterrent for those who value their future. As you think about the justice of God, it should cause you to be more amazed at His mercy and grace. Justice had to be served for your sin and Jesus chose to pay the price for you to redeem you so you wouldn't have to face the just punishment you deserve.

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God that He is a God of justice.*
- \* *Ask God to help you realize the importance of your actions.*
- \* *Praise God because He always does what is right.*

## **Thought for the day**

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What would happen if two men fought and one of them was seriously injured (vs 18-19)?

What would happen if a slave owner beat his slave to death (vs 20)?

Why do you think no punishment would be given if the slave recovered (vs 21)?

What punishment would a person face for causing a woman to prematurely go into labor (vs 22)?

What would happen if someone caused the death of an unborn child (vs 23)?

What do you think verses 23-24 meant?

Why do you think God established these rules?

What would happen if a slave owner cause permanent injury to one of his slaves (vs 26-27)?

What was to happen if an ox killed a person (vs 28)?

Why would the owner not be held liable (vs 28)?

When would an owner be held liable for what his animal did (vs 29)?

Why do you think God gave such a severe punishment?

How could a man whose animal killed someone keep from losing his life (vs 30)?

How would this also apply to children (vs 31)?

What would happen if an ox injured a slave (vs 32)?

Why do you think God took time to give these specific regulations?

What do you think you can learn from a passage like this?

# “Responsible for Our Actions”

**Study:** Exodus 21:33-22:15

**Reading:** --

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:22

## What Does the Bible Say?

If a man dug a hole in the ground and did not cover it, he would be guilty of any harm that pit would bring. There could be numerous reasons why a man would dig a pit, and the main point of this law was to help the Israelites see the importance of watching out for the safety and well being of others and their property. If someone’s animal fell into the pit, causing the animal to die, the owner of the pit would have to pay for the loss of the animal or replace the animal with one of his own, but he would be allowed to keep the animal that fell into the pit (vs 33-34).

Animals were not always easy to control and there was a chance that one of the animals could kill another animal. If that happened, specifically here with oxen, the ox that did the killing would be sold and both owners would share the sale price or would split the meat from the dead ox. This would not be the case if the ox was known for having a tendency to hurt other animals. If an ox was dangerous and the owner was negligent, he was responsible to replace the ox that was killed, though he himself would be allowed to keep the meat from the dead ox (vs 35-36).

One of the ten commandments was, “Thou shalt not steal.” Though they were commanded not to steal, the sinful human nature would lead some people to make the choice to steal. If a man stole someone’s ox and killed it or sold it, when discovered, his punishment would be to repay the owner with five oxen for each ox stolen. If a sheep was stolen, the thief was to replace the stolen one with four sheep. Why there is a difference between the reimbursement for ox and sheep is not clear. Perhaps the loss of an ox was more devastating than that of a sheep (vs 1).

If a thief was found in the act of stealing during the night and was killed while in the process of a burglary, the man who killed him would not be held guilty. If the theft happened in the daytime and the thief was killed, the man who killed him would be guilty of murder. We are not given the exact reason for this, but the general thought is that in the daytime, the property owner would have time and ability to call for help

and wouldn’t need to take the life of a thief. The thief that was caught would have to pay for his actions. If he didn’t have money to pay the owner back, he was to be sold into slavery in order to have his debts paid. If the animal that he stole could be returned, he would do so, but would have to pay double of what he stole (vs 2-4).

Another form of stealing would be to take the fruit from someone’s fields without permission. If a man took grapes from a vineyard or let his animal eat from that person’s vineyard, he would pay for whatever was taken or destroyed. If a man was responsible for the destruction of a person’s vineyard or grain because of fire, the person who started the fire would have to pay for the crops that were destroyed (vs 5-6).

If a man gave some of his possessions to his neighbor for his neighbor to watch over and those possessions ended up missing, there would have to be a determination if the neighbor was innocent or guilty. They first had to rule out if it was stolen by someone else. If it was stolen, and the thief was found, the thief would pay double. If it was not stolen, both parties would have to go before the judges who would decide if the neighbor was guilty and responsible for the loss of this item. The judges were representatives of God and God would use the judges to declare innocence or condemnation (vs 7-9).

When a neighbor was keeping an animal safe for another, and the animal was killed or injured, the one who was watching over the animal would not be guilty if he made an oath before God declaring that he was not responsible. If he allowed the animal to be stolen, he would make restitution to his neighbor because keeping the animal safe was his responsibility. If the animal was attacked by wild beasts and evidence revealed this then the person in charge of watching over the animal would not be guilty (vs 10-13).

If a person borrowed something from his neighbor, he was responsible for keeping that item safe. If he borrowed an animal and it was injured or died while he was not around, he would be required to replace that animal. If it died while he was there and the death was not his cause, then he would not be responsible. If a man paid for the use of the animal, the reimbursement would be covered by the fee paid for the rental (vs 14-15).

All of these rules and regulations point to the fact that God wanted men to be responsible for their actions. Though this is not law for us to follow today, the commandments given here can be a basis when we define what it looks like to show the love of Christ to others around us.

Why do you think a person would be held responsible if he dug a pit and did not cover it (vs 33)?

What do you think verse 34 shows about the fairness that God presented in making laws?

What solution did God give for an instance when one animal would kill another (vs 35)?

What does verse 36 recognize about the responsibility of a person who knew his animal was dangerous?

What does verse 1 of chapter 22 reveal about restitution?

Why do you think restitution is an important part of God's law?

Why do you think there are different punishments for killing a thief in the daytime and in the nighttime (vs 2-3)?

What does verse 5 reveal about controlling your animals?

What restitution needed to be made if a person started a wild fire (vs 6)?

What does verse 7 teach about responsibility?

What were they to do if they were unable to decide whose fault it was that something was stolen (vs 8)?

When a judge made a decision, who was he acting for (vs 9-10)?

What do these verses teach about the importance of following the judgements that were given?

How could a person avoid making restitution (vs 10-13)?

What do verses 14-15 teach you about your responsibility when borrowing something?

How can you apply some of the principles today?

## *“The Compassion of God”*

**Study:** Exodus 22:16-24

**Reading:** Psalm 146:1-10, Luke 10:25=37

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:22

### What Does the Bible Say?

One of the ten commandments described how it was wrong to commit adultery. Though it is not fully spelled out, basically it says that sex outside of marriage is wrong. The part of the law given here in verse 16 described what price a man would have to pay if he seduced a virgin into sleeping with him. If it was found out that a man had sexual relations with a virgin who had not yet been promised to a husband, that man would be responsible to pay the parents of that girl the normal price that a man would pay the family to marry a daughter. If the father did not want his daughter to marry that man, the price would still be owed, but they would not be forced to marry (vs 16-17).

Any Israelite who was found practicing sorcery would be put to death. Sorcery and witchcraft were (and are) demonic and God did not want His children to have any part of it (vs 18).

Sexual perversion was just as bad in the wicked society of that day as it is today. The perversion led people to commit sexual acts with animals and that was something that God condemned. The punishment for this type of act would be death (vs 19).

Death was also the punishment prescribed for any Israelite who chose to sacrifice to another god other than the Lord. This was a severe punishment that was not often put into practice though it does reveal how seriously God viewed the sin of idolatry (vs 20).

The compassion and love of God is made evident in the next commands as the Israelites were told to treat others with love and respect. If someone traveled through their land, they could not take advantage of that person or take him to be a slave. This is what happened to the Israelites in Egypt and the thought and understanding of how that felt was to be a motivation and reminder to treat foreigners with care (vs 21).

The Israelites were also to make sure not to mistreat the widows or orphans. Those who were mistreated and cried out to God because of it would be delivered by God as He would choose to enact punishment upon

those who oppressed the less fortunate. God's wrath would burn against those who mistreated those who had no one to defend them. God said that the person who mistreated others could lose his life and his wife would become a widow and his children would be fatherless. To understand this more, you must remember that the culture was a male dominated culture. Not everyone was given equal respect or rights as we try to do in society today. If a person did not have a male to advocate for them and stand up to help them, that person would be very vulnerable. It is clear from this passage and others like it that the heart of God extends in an extra way to those whose plight on this earth is a difficult one by no fault of their own (vs 22-24).

### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you realize that God is a God of wrath, but at the same time He is also a God of compassion? He pours out His wrath on those who choose to mistreat others and those who choose to seek after other gods. The death penalty was prescribed for certain things because God knew how easy it would be for one person who was in sin to influence many others. If that person was removed, often the problem would stop. He also realized how much individuals could hurt others by taking advantage of those who could not defend themselves. God has a special place in His heart for those who are defenseless and He will step in on their behalf. Having a balanced view of God is very important. It is sometimes easy to view God as only a God of wrath or only a God of love and mercy. He is both, and understanding this will help deepen your knowledge of Him and will help you live out a life that is more joyful than those who have an unbalanced view of God.

### **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God for the compassion He shows towards you.*
- \* *Ask God to help you have the proper view of Him.*
- \* *Praise God because He is a God of wrath and a God of love.*

### **Thought for the day**

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What punishment would a man face if he slept with a woman who was not already promised to another man (vs 16)?

Why do you think sexual involvement outside of marriage is a sin?

What choice would the father have (vs 17)?

Why do you think God gave the father that choice?

Who did God say should not be allowed to live (vs 18)?

Why do you think this was worthy of death?

What else did God view as worthy of death (vs 19)?

Why do you think he viewed it this way?

What was the penalty for sacrificing to another god (vs 20)? Why do you think the penalty was so severe?

What were the Israelites not to do to those who traveled through their land (vs 21)?

What was the reasoning behind this (vs 21)?

How do you think you can practice the idea presented in verse 21 in our society today?

What does verse 22 reveal about God's care for the less fortunate?

Why would a person be tempted to mistreat the less fortunate?

What did God say about the cry of the widow or fatherless (vs 23)?

How would God treat those who mistreated widows and orphans (vs 24)?

*\*\*\*Though these are Old Testament commands and do not have to be kept today, many of these commands are practical ways that God gave for the Israelites to choose to love one another.*

# “Laws of Compassion”

**Study:** Exodus 22:25-31

**Reading:** I Timothy 2

**Memory:** Proverbs 3:22

I was a Crown Ministries financial counselor for a few years when I live in Wisconsin. I saw first hand the great problems that debt led to. Sometimes, people incur debt because of unexpected expenses, especially when it comes to healthcare. Though the healthcare industry in general is pretty good at the interest rates they charge, at times, people borrow money from other sources that offer very good deals or low interest rates. At first, these deals appear to be great for the borrower, but it doesn't take long for the borrower to realize that people love taking advantage of others. Often, interest rates skyrocket, which makes it very difficult for people to get out of the debt they are in.

Today, we are going to see how God cared about the well being of His children and gave them instructions on how He wanted them to treat each other.

## What Does the Bible Say?

God was a compassionate God who cared for His people and He desired that His people would care for one another. He told the Israelites that they should not charge interest to poor Israelites who borrowed money from them. Throughout time, money changers have been willing to loan money, but at a high interest rate. They take advantage of the poor and profit from them, but God did not want that to take place among His children. Instead, when they loaned money to the poor, they were not to charge interest. Israelites were also instructed not to hold on to the coats of others. In those days, if a pledge was made, a person would often give their coat like we would give security deposits today. Those who were poor didn't have more than one coat and that coat often served as a blanket. These coats were vital to the survival and health of the poor, and if a wealthier Israelite required a coat as a security deposit, they could be causing harm to those who were less fortunate (vs 25-27).

Speaking out against God or declaring negative things about the rulers God had appointed was not approved of by God. We are given the same

principle in the New Testament as we are told to pray for our leaders and try to make peace with them (I Tim. 2). This is not always easy to do and in our society today, seldom can a person be a leader and not face constant criticism from others (vs 28).

God wanted to make sure the priorities of His people were directed in the right place and He told them that they should not delay in offering to Him the best of the harvest that He would provide for them. They were not to give God their leftovers, but as soon as the crops produced, the firstfruits were to belong to God. Obviously, they couldn't feed God directly, but they were to give these things to the priests to help provide for the priests (vs 29a).

They were also to give to God the first born of their children and animals. As we read earlier in Exodus, they would not offer their children as physical sacrifices, but were to redeem their children from God by offering other sacrifices for their children. The first born from their flocks were to be given to God and sacrificed to Him. Normally, the first born was considered to be the best and the most special. By establishing this ordinance, God was attempting to help the Israelites keep Him in as their priority. Though giving God the best of what they had would seem to be a high price, the blessings that He would give in return would far outweigh the sacrifice (vs 29b-30).

The Israelites were not to eat the flesh of any animals that had been killed by a wild beast. This was because they were to be set apart unto God. The practical reason for this instruction is not made clear to us, but we do know that in several of the laws God enacted them for sanitary reasons and to separate his people from the rest of the nations (vs 31).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize the importance of reaching out to those who are in need and caring for them with great compassion? Our society today is full of those who take advantage of others, just as it was in those days. As a believer, you need to seek to help those who are less fortunate rather than take advantage of them.

How do you talk about your government and other earthly authorities? We live in a world that constantly criticizes others, especially those in leadership. You must realize that no leader will be perfect nor will they ever make all the decisions you want them to make. Instead of criticizing them, try praying for them.

What were the Israelites not to take from poor people (vs 25)?

What does this reveal about how we should treat the less fortunate?

How do you know who you should and shouldn't charge interest from?

What do you think verse 26 means?

Why did God want to make sure that coats were given back before night time (vs 27)?

What principle do you think God was teaching with this command?

Why do you think God said He would hear the person who cried out to Him (vs 27)?

What do you think the beginning of verse 28 means?

Why should you not curse your leaders (vs 28)?

What are ways you are tempted to do this today?

What principle of giving to God is taught in the beginning of verse 29?

Why do you think God wanted the first born sons (vs 29)?

What else were the Israelites to dedicate to God (vs 30)?

Why do you think that giving God the first and best of what you have is so important?

What were the people not to eat (vs 31)?

What was the reasoning that God gave for this?

Why do you think that God gave this commandment?

Can you think of any New Testament principles that teach similar thoughts to the commands you read about today?

## **Memorization**

(review this week's memory verse)

*Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, 2 for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. 3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; 10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. 11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, 12 for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights. 13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, 14 for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. 15 She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. 16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed. 19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; 20 by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew. 21 My son, do not lose sight of these— keep sound wisdom and discretion, 22 and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck.*