

Leviticus 25**5-24-01*****“Jubilee for Me!”*****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. On our toes! – Dr. Laura Letter. (well written, yet not!)
- 1.2. **Outline:** 7th year Sabbath; Jubilee & Property; Jubilee & Poverty; & Jubilee & Slavery.

2. 7TH YEAR SABBATH! (1-7)

- 2.1. **When you come into the land** – (conditional)
 - 2.1.1. When Ezra came back into the land(after the captivity) he re-thought, re-taught, & re-applied God’s law, once the people were back in their God-given homeland.
- 2.2. **Q:** Do you trust God to take care of you?
 - 2.2.1. What **faith** this must have taken.
 - 2.2.2. What **discipline** this must have taken to not walk through your vineyard & “accidentally” break a branch...in the right spot(pruning vs.4).
 - 2.2.2.1. Or,(asking/yelling) “which of the kids spilt the fertilizer all over one of the fruit trees?”
 - 2.2.2.2. Or, with a hand full of seed, yelling to the wife, “honey, I’m going to scatter these seeds for **the birds!**”
- 2.3. **Q:** Is He your Jehovah Jireh or not?
 - 2.3.1. **Q:** Are you trusting in your savings, stocks, mutual funds, 401k’s, CD’s, or Roth Ira’s?
- 2.4. **Q:** Why else was this year important? - This year of rest was also supposed to be given over to Bible Study!
 - 2.4.1. **Read - Deut.31:9-13**
- 2.5. **Q:** So, did they obey this?...No!
 - 2.5.1. By **not** obeying, this is what brought upon them 70 yrs of captivity.
 - 2.5.2. **See 2 Chron.36:21** & note below it.

3. JUBILEE & PROPERTY! (8-34)

- 3.1. 2 Main themes: “My Land”(23); & “My Servants”(42).
 - 3.1.1. There is a **Spiritual Purpose** here(God owns everything, so we must trust Him for everything); **Ecological Purpose**(to rest the land); **Humanitarian Purpose**(to rest the people); **Creature Purpose**(to rest the beast); & there is a **Economic Purpose**(to balance the economy/for the poor & afflicted).
 - 3.1.2. Had they obeyed the year of Jubilee the rich would have had a hard time exploiting the poor.
 - 3.1.3. God is concerned w/ecology & the way we treat His creation.
 - 3.1.3.1. Obviously many take this to a way-out extreme. (Chaining themselves to trees, etc.)
 - 3.1.3.2. **Earth day** is ok!(**conservation of the world's natural resources**)
 - 3.1.3.3. But we are to be stewards of His backyard. **We are His guests!**
- 3.2. **JUBILEE!** (8-17)
- 3.3. **Jubilee** = to blow a trumpet(shofar/rams horn)
 - 3.3.1. It was a time to “**Proclaim Liberty**”(10) to people in debt, to the land itself, to slaves, & even to the work animals!
 - 3.3.2. **Liberty** or freedom is a wonderful word!
 - 3.3.2.1. **Q:** Are you in **financial bondage**? What are you doing to get out of it? Maybe you just need better financial planning?
 - 3.3.2.2. **Suggest** - “**Crown Ministries**” (Irv & Melinda Cohen) [next group?]
- 3.4. (13-17) Here is an exhortation to be **honest in business!**
 - 3.4.1. (14) How easy it is today for some to flex their financial muscle to “**wrong one another**”.
 - 3.4.2. (15,16) It is ok to make money off land purchases, but **NOT** by misrepresentation, deception, or fraud.
 - 3.4.3. (17) If only these 2 sentences could be inserted into **all** our transactions today!
- 3.5. So the Lord loans His land to them so they may have the sense of responsibility & proprietorship.
 - 3.5.1. People usually take care of what they themselves own!
 - 3.5.2. **Paper today** (Californian) “77% of home owners in our area are owner/occupied, in s/w county” (hard to rent, but statistically & practically it keeps up the neighborhoods)

- 3.6. Like the announcement of the Year of Jubilee the gospel is **Good News** to the spiritual poor, because our debts have been paid, & are completely forgiven.
- 3.6.1. Today He offers rest & freedom to all who trust Him.
- 3.6.2. We are now living in the year of Jubilee.
- 3.6.3. **Lk.4:18,19** "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To **proclaim liberty to the captives** And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."
- 3.6.4. **See** – **Lk.7:36-50**
- 3.7. **PROVISIONS!** (18-22)
- 3.8. **(18) In safety** – “in security or confidence”.
- 3.9. **(19) Eat your fill** – “abundance!”
- 3.10. **(21) Who gives the increase?**
- 3.11. **Did you know...** that there is **no evidence** that they ever celebrated the Year of Jubilee?
- 3.12. **LAND!** (23-28)
- 3.13. **(23) For the land is mine** – {This land **is my land**, this land “ain’t” your land...}
- 3.13.1. **Ps.50:10-12** “For every beast of the forest is **Mine**, And the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are **Mine**. "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is **Mine**, and all its fullness.”
- 3.13.2. Isn't this a great reminder to us...**It's not yours!** “It’s not your house, car, back patio, green grass, driveway, etc.”
- 3.13.3. So, if God wants to **sell His** house, or even **loose His** house, He’s the owner!
- 3.13.3.1. Remember, a **steward** in scripture “owned nothing” he only managed the owner’s things! {**Sojourners** = “My tenants”}
- 3.14. **WALLED CITY!** (29,30)
- 3.15. **VILLAGE!** (31)
- 3.16. So I guess...“**It takes a Village**” to get your house back!

3.17. **LEVITES!** (32-34)

3.17.1. The Levites get a parsonage as part of their stipend.

3.18. **People before Property!** (we have this flip-flopped)

3.18.1. The Children of Israel couldn't say, "we did it our selves", "we are self-made men". They knew it was God that rescued them out of Egypt.

3.18.1.1. If they ran upon **bad times** they wouldn't ultimately loose their place, extended family would come to their aid, If they needed money it would be lent to them interest free.

3.18.2. *"The fate of their brother was more important than merely making money!"*

4. JUBILEE & POVERTY! (35-38)

4.1. (38) The Key was...remember I brought you out of Egypt when **you** were **poor** & had **fallen into poverty**." {Treat them as well}

4.1.1. Since the Lord had **created** them, **chose** them, & **redeemed** them out of Egypt...then He could place this on them!

4.2. Loans to needy friends were not to have interest.

4.2.1. Remember "**helping** someone" isn't always "free-bee's"!

4.2.2. **Ask**, "what will really help them?" Sometimes it's giving them a fish, other times it is showing them how to catch a fish, other times it is

4.3. "A decent provision for the poor is the true test of civilization,"ⁱ

5. JUBILEE & SLAVERY! (39-55)

5.1. **Slavery** – was not evil in itself. It was the possible **harshness** & **cruelty** that could be evil.

5.1.1. (Smith Bible Dict.) "The institution of slavery was **recognized**, though not **established**, by the Mosaic Law, w/a view to anticipate its hardship & to secure to every man his ordinary rights."¹

5.1.2. **Cases for Slavery were: Poverty**(you could sell yourself to another Hebrew, to support your family, to obtain maintenance & purchase a surplus sufficient to redeem his property), **Theft**(to pay back when restitution couldn't be paid back), & **Paternal Authority**(limited to the sale of your daughter, of tender age, to be a maidservant or work until she became his or his sons wife...like a "dowry" given as was not unusual)

¹ Smith Bible Dictionary; Slavery

- 5.1.3. Slavery existed many centuries before the Mosaic Law. The Mosaic Law forbade them to enslave one another. God had to eliminate slavery in Israel before He could deal w/it in the Gentile nations(i.e. judgment starts in the house of God)
- 5.1.4. Slavery fell into disuse subsequent to the Babylonian Captivity.
- 5.1.5. Even in the NT you never find **Paul** or **Jesus** attacking slavery, although the Roman Empire had approx 60 million slaves at that time.
- 5.2. **The church & slavery** – “The church of Jesus Christ has thrived under many kinds of **political & economic systems** & isn’t dependent on any of them, but the church must always champion the rights of the poor & the oppressed & use every spiritual weapon t defeat the oppressors.”²
 - 5.2.1. “Had the early church launched a militant crusade against slavery, it would have identified Christianity, as a political movement, & this would have hindered the spreading of the Gospel in the Roman world.”³
 - 5.2.2. The Lord chooses to change **People. - Politics & Societies change** comes from 1st the change in individuals...never reverse those! (book by – Cal Thomas)
- 5.3. **(55)** So, don’t sell your life to Visa, Mastercard, etc. – you are His!
- 5.4. “God owns the land, we are His servants, & we must use His resources wisely,...for His Glory!”

ⁱ Samuel Johnson (British writer)

² Warren Wiersbe; pg.132

³ Warren Wiersbe; pg.131