

Besmirched

I. Announce:

- A. Slide#1 Father/Son Outdoor Adventure:
- B. Slide#2 Children's Ministry opportunities for help this summer: (June-Aug) in an effort to give our school year leaders a break. Please contact Tony Schaffner.
- C. Slide#3 Children at Risk this Sunday from 3-5pm in New Room. A non-profit organization called FACESS (Freeing American Children from Exploitation and Sex Salvery) will be sharing about their ministry.
- D. Pray for all the fires tonight.

II. Slide#4 Intro:

- A. What was your **reputation** in your neighborhood growing up? How about in H.S.? How about at work or in school presently?
- B. Don't you hate being **misrepresented**? By a friend, by a co-worker. In the newspaper. About you or your business, or the company you work for.
 - 1. No one wants to be **misrepresented**.
 - 2. (Syn.) Misrepresent, defame, slander, smear campaign, give someone a bad name, stigmatize, bad mouth, talk smack, **besmirch**. [**besmirch** - damage the reputation of someone or something in the opinion of others]
 - 3. Slide#5 Listen to this story about **John Wilkes Booth's Brother**. (read at bottom)
 - a) His reputation smeared, not because of who he was, but because of someone close to him smearing the family name.
- C. Slide#6 The issue in our 2 ch's is **God's reputation** possibly being **defamed**, because of his people
 - 1. If we give **wrong representation**, from our lives, about who God is, His reputation gets smeared, not because of who God was, but because of us/**someone close to Him**, smearing the family name.
 - 2. **Everything** that we communicate to people about God **must be true**.
 - 3. **Here** we need to go back & remind ourselves of **the 3rd commandment**.
- D. Title: **Besmirched** [damage the reputation of someone in the opinion of others]

III. Slide#7 #3 NOT MISUSING GOD'S NAME (5:11)

- A. Slide#8 Deut.5:11 *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.*
 - 1. In its most **narrow** sense, the 3rd commandment prohibits **swearing an oath or making a promise, in the Lord's name & then breaking it**.

2. In its more **broader** sense, it forbids *any false speech or communication about God, or anything that lessens or misrepresents God's name* (i.e. His character).
3. The word **vain** means **emptiness** or **nothingness**.
 - a) When the Psalmist declared that idols were vain, he meant there was absolutely nothing to them.
4. **In vain** means then, *uselessly, wastefully, falsely, for no reason or to no good purpose*.¹

IV. Slide#9 **3RD COMMANDMENT REVISITED (Ch.13)**

- A. Slide#10 **PROPHETS & DREAMERS** (1-5)
 - B. A **false Prophet** was one who *spoke on behalf of God*, but it wasn't true.
 - C. A **dreamer** was one who had *received a revelation via a dream* from God, but it wasn't true.
 - D. These men would arise who would attempt to wean Israel away from the Lord by performing a **sign** or a **wonder**.
 1. **Is the test the person's ability to perform miracles?** **No**. Even Satan can do that.
 - a) Actually, his/her *fidelity to the truth of God*...that's always been the test.
 2. Such men were to be considered **national enemies** and **put to death**. **The baby was to be thrown out with the bathwater**.
 3. If you got terrible/wrong/bad advice from your financial planner, or personal advice, or medical advice, the consequence is only **temporal**. **But the seriousness here is that it has eternal consequences**.
 - a) It is **kidnapping**, *stealing God's children* away from Him...which was **a capitol crime**.
 - E. (3) **Testing you** - Moses recognized that God would periodically **test** Israel by sending false prophets, for then Israel would truly have a chance to show they **loved God w/all their heart/soul**.
- F. Slide#11 **FAMILY & FRIENDS** (6-11)
 - G. The seriousness of forsaking the true God for idols is nowhere more vividly expressed than here
 1. **Even members of a man's family were to be put to death if they attempted to undermine his loyalty to God**.
 2. **We must bear in mind that Israel was at this time a theocracy**. God was their king, and those who rebelled against him or encouraged others to do so **were guilty of treason**.
 - H. **No relationship, in our life, no blood relationship, is more important than our relationship with our God**. As Jesus said, **He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me**. Mt.10:37

¹ Shepherd's Notes, Deuteronomy, pg.43

I. Slide#12 **WICKED MEN** (12-18)

- J. Furthermore, if **apostate communities** arose, they were to be exterminated after their guilt had been adequately determined. [Numbers do not determine truth]
1. It would have made **a mockery of divine justice** if Canaanite cities had been destroyed for their idolatries **and** such people spared.
 2. Moreover, if these **moral diseased** were **tolerated** in the new nation of Israel, they would eventually **permeate the whole**.

V. Slide#13 **CLEAN/UNCLEAN** (Ch.14)

- A. Moses also includes as **other forms of apostasy** as including **pagan rites of mourning the dead & eating of foods declared ritually unclean**.
1. In other societies, only **the priests** were subject to regulations such as these, **but** Israel was to be **a holy people**, where the behavior of **each person** was to be **as blameless** as the conduct of **its priests**.
 - a) **How about today?...**is holiness required for pastors or the congregation?

B. Slide#14 **IMPROPER MOURNING** (1,2)

C. This precaution against lapsing into paganism is **obscure**.

1. **Mutilation of the body and shaving of the head** were apparently **heathen mourning customs**.
2. These rites belonged to a **veneration** of the dead, **or** of death itself, **and** were therefore entirely inappropriate for the people of the living God.
3. **The prohibition against such practices took high ground, For you are a holy people to the Lord your God.** [holy = to be different]
4. **Christian courtesy** toward persons of **all faiths should not** lead to a **tolerance** that fails to recognize the **difference** between **truth and error**.

D. Slide#15 **RULES OF DIET** (3-21)

E. The reasons why some meats were considered unclean and others clean are **not stated**.

1. **Health reasons** are probable. **Also...**
2. **Certain creatures** were given **idolatrous veneration**.
 - a) **However, what matters is the purpose of these classifications:** by the very food they ate, or abstained from eating, Israelites were to show themselves an **holy people** (21), that is, **a separated people**.

F. The distinguishing factors between clean and unclean animals were carefully spelled out.

1. Only those that had **cloven hooves** and **chewed the cud** were permissible as food: **both requirements were necessary** (7,8).

- G. (21) The prohibition, **Thou shalt not see the a kid in his mother's milk**, is variously interpreted.
1. Some see this as a matter of **humaneness**; **but** more likely the forbidden practice had **pagan associations**.
 2. On 3 separate occasions, the Torah tells the Jews not to **boil a kid in its mother's milk**. (Ex. 23:19; Ex. 34:26; Deut. 14:21). The **Oral Torah** explains that this passage prohibits eating **meat** and **dairy** together.
 - a) In Israel they wont serve **coffee** after a **meat** dinner in Hotels, because you might put **milk** in your coffee.
- H. **Slide#16,17** Dietary regulations were related to **ritual rather than to hygiene** seems probable from our Lord's pronouncements about them.
1. **Mark**, commenting on his own quotation of Jesus in Mark 7:18-23, said, **Thus he declared all foods clean** (v.19, RSV).
 2. **Paul** when discussing food said, (**Read** 1Tim.4:1-5).
 - a) **Yet**, the spiritual principle stays the same..we must be a **separated & obedient** people.
 - b) **Clean & unclean** is a **reminder to us** to distinguish between **what God accepts & what He rejects**.
- I. So, in both **speech & actions** Israel was to be truthful at all times, **and** especially in all things which related to God. (same for the church)
1. **For Israel** to represent themselves as God's **holy** people **& then** act in ways that harmed **the reputation of God** before others, was taken with the **utmost seriousness**.
 2. **How about with the church? Just as serious?**

VI. **John Wilkes Booth's Brother** From the book: *Little House on the Freeway*, Tim Kimmel, pp. 105-106

- A. **Edwin Thomas Booth** at age 15 debuted on the stage playing Tressel to his father's Richard III. Within a few short years he was playing the lead in Shakespearean tragedies throughout the United States and Europe. He was the Olivier of his time. He brought a spirit of tragedy that put him in a class by himself.
- B. Edwin had a younger brother, **John**, who was also an actor. Although he could not compare with his older brother, he did give a memorable interpretation of Brutus in the 1863 production of Julius Caesar, by the New York Winter Garden Theater. **Two years later**, he performed his last role in a theater when he jumped from the box of a bloodied President Lincoln to the stage of Ford's Theater. John Wilkes Booth met the end he deserved. **But his murderous life placed a stigma over the life of his brother Edwin**.
- C. An invisible asterisk now stood beside his name in the minds of the people. He was no longer Edwin Booth the consummate tragedian, but Edwin Booth the brother of the assassin. **He retired from the stage to ponder the question why?**

- D. Edwin Booth's life was a tragic accident simply **because of his last name**. The sensationalists wouldn't let him separate himself from the crime.
- E. **It is interesting to note** that he carried a letter with him that could have vindicated him from the sibling attachment to John Wilkes Booth. It was a letter from **General Adams Budeau**, Chief Secretary to **General Ulysses S. Grant**, thanking him for a singular act of **bravery**. **It seems that while he was waiting for a train on the platform at Jersey City, a coach he was about to board bolted forward. He turned in time to see that a young boy had slipped from the edge of the pressing crowd into the path of the oncoming train. Without thinking, Edwin raced to the edge of the platform and, linking his leg around a railing, grabbed the boy by the collar. The grateful boy recognized him, but he didn't recognize the boy.** It wasn't until he received the letter of thanks that he learned it was **Robert Todd Lincoln**, the **son** of his brother's future victim.