

#30 Kedoshim Lev. 19:1-20:27

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While praying:

- * Look at God's light for truth and not to our society.
- * Seek God's gifts which give blessings and comfort.
- * We all have typical needs; apply ourselves appropriately.
- * Be ready to do God's work. God is powerful and knows all and sees what's going on.

Kedomshim means, "holy ones." This portion contains lots of important commands. It begins with God saying He is holy and we are to be a holy people. The New Testament portion says the same thing. "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy,'" 1 Peter 1:15-16 NKJV. This means we are to be a different and separate people in how we live from the rest of the world.

Next it says we are to honor our parents. As we grow up, we should revere our parents that are following God and obey them for our own good. If our parents have taught us to understand the Bible appropriately, we should also weigh the advice they give us out of respect for them. We should also help our parents as they get older out of respect for them. We are to keep Shabbat, and not turn to idols. The peace offering is to be done in a certain way and when they get to the land, they are to leave the corners of their field for the poor and foreigner (God wants us to help the poor.).

They were not to steal, lie, defraud others, swear by God's name falsely, not to keep back wages, not to curse a deaf person or put an obstacle in front of a blind person. What can be implied from not cursing a deaf person is not to say negative things about others. It will help us to think clearer and better. What can be implied about not putting something in front of a blind person is we should not do anything that may cause another person to sin. Sin causes harm.

They were to be just, not slander, look out for each other, not to hate or take revenge, and to love your neighbor as yourself. The command to love your neighbor includes not hating them, not keeping a grudge, or not taking action against them. They were not to let their livestock mate with different species, not to mix their crops, and not to mix certain threads in clothing.

A man was to make reparation for sexual relations with another man's slave. They were not to eat from a newly planted tree until the fifth year, they were not to eat blood, they were not to practice any spiritualism (like fortune telling, tarot cards, palm reading, inquiring from spirits, using things (like tea leaves) to predict the future or to make decisions), not to gash their flesh, not get tattoos, and not to make your daughter a prostitute. They were to keep Shabbat, not to turn to mediums, and respect the elderly (It should be implied we should also respect leaders, our mentors, and our Bible teachers for what they do and have done.); they were not to wrong foreigners, not to be dishonest with measurements, and keep God's commands.

They were not to sacrifice their children to an idol and God will set Himself against those who consult a medium or sorcerer. They were to be holy and observe God's commands. They were not to curse their parents. A number of sexual sins are listed; adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, and incest are all wrong. These were the things the Canaanites were doing and is the reason God was expelling them from the land. God detested those works and the land would vomit them out if they did them. Committing these sins was against nature itself. Men were not to have relations during a woman's period. They were to eat only clean animals and not make themselves detestable with unclean animals. We should understand from this that there is something in these animals that is bad for us. They were to be set apart; they belonged to God. Mediums and sorcerers are to be put to death.

This portion talks about the many traps of sin that keep us from a relationship with God. For example, sexual sins often keep a person distant from God. We belong to God and we are to be a holy people. Also, this portion talks about loving our neighbor as ourselves. Sin not only keeps us from God, but also keeps us from loving others and treating others right.

This portion starts out by saying we should honor our parents, keep Shabbat, and not worship idols. Most of our society doesn't do any of these three commandments. Parents are ridiculed on TV and made to look foolish. The government is taking control over our children by what is taught and by making ungodly laws concerning the rearing of our children. Recently, one state said it was okay to kill our child after it was born.

People observe the wrong day as Shabbat. Back in the 1800s, someone did research on which day was actually Shabbat and they found out the Jews celebrated our Friday evening and Saturday during the day all over the world even if they had no contact with other Jews. So we know for sure when Shabbat is.

Our country worships individualism and riches instead of valuing God. We could say that is a form of idolatry because they make those things more important than God. Isn't that silly? They think if they have lots of stuff, then they'll be happy. Then what do you need after that; get more stuff? Statistics have shown that people who have lots of things are actually less happy than people who don't have much. Instead of making riches your god, following God's ways will bring a more satisfying life and better life whether you are rich or poor.

Just take the law for dishonest measurements for example. Some say the Old Testament portion is done away with. When we go to the store, we expect to get what we paid for. If we decided that Old Testament commandment didn't matter anymore, our country would fall apart financially. What about the other laws? Anytime one of God's laws are disobeyed, there are consequences.

We need to look to God's light instead of how our society functions. We are to be God's kedoshim (holy ones) and live different than unbelievers. We are to be holy is mentioned 3 times in this portion (Leviticus 19:2, 20:7, 26). We are to think different, act different and have different values. One of the commands in this portion is not to offer your children to idols. One of our idols is riches. In our culture, children are being aborted and killed for the sake of inconvenience so we can have college degrees and be more successful. What if you were the one killed for the sake of inconvenience? Just because our society is okay with something doesn't make it right. The Bible says, "There can be a way which seems right to a person, but at its end are the ways of death;" Proverbs 14:12 CJB. God ways bring good into our society. At the very least we can bring good into the world no matter what our society is doing. The Haftarah for this portion talks about the destruction of Israel because they didn't keep God's commandments.

Did you know that the laws at Mount Sinai were a gift from an all-knowing God? We know that God has given man direction since the beginning of time. Noah gave his children God's laws (Jubilees 7:20-28). Over time these laws were retold, but they needed to be recorded. God gave the laws at Mt. Sinai so they wouldn't be forgotten.

God has never left man alone. The Bible says if we seek Him, we will find Him. This amazing scripture in Jeremiah was for Israel, but it can also be applied by all believers for all time.

Jeremiah 29:11-14 CJB

For I know what plans I have in mind for you, 'says ADONAI,' plans for well-being, not for bad things; so that you can have hope and a future. When you call to me and pray to me, I will listen to

you. When you seek me, you will find me, provided you seek for me wholeheartedly; and I will let you find me, 'says ADONAI.

Whether it is God's law, God's provision, God's help, or the gift of the Holy Spirit, we should seek God's gifts which will bring us blessings and comfort. The Messiah has come and promised us the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to live right, will give us direction for life, helps keep us in fellowship with the God of the universe, gives us hope, gives us blessings, gives us peace, helps us succeed, protects us, gives us a hope for eternal life, and so much more. God has not left us alone. It says in Acts, "Perhaps reach out and find him although in fact, he is not far from each one of us;" Acts 17:27 CJB. And, He has given those that believe in the Messiah the Holy Spirit to help us (John 14:18,20; Acts 2:38-39).

We all have typical needs in life. What could be more important than having a fulfilled life through God? We have physical needs, emotional needs, and spiritual needs. A lot of our physical needs are taken care of in an environment that puts God in His proper place. Keeping God's commandments provides for a society that provides for our physical needs and security. Keeping God's commandments provides for associations we can trust and value. There are believers I know that if I had \$1,000 sitting on the table, I know they wouldn't take a cent. We develop more endearing and godly relationships through God.

Having fellowship with God gives us peace, satisfaction, and direction. We matter to God and our believing community. We can have feelings of enjoyment, belonging and accomplishment. We just need to apply ourselves both to life and to our spiritual life. Proverbs 3:5-6 CJB is a good scripture to memorize, "Trust in ADONAI with all your heart; do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him; then he will level your paths." God should be in all our life. Colossians 3:23-24 CJB says, "Whatever work you do, put yourself into it, as those who are serving not merely other people, but the Lord. Remember that as your reward, you will receive the inheritance from the Lord. You are slaving for the Lord, for the Messiah."

I take this literally and try to work hard in all I do including spiritual things. In Proverbs 12:11 CJB says, "He who farms his land will have plenty of food, but he who follows futilities has no sense." Apply yourself to useful things. Hobbies are great if you get the other things done. Sometimes hobbies can even lead to useful work. Proverbs 13:4 CJB says, "The lazy person wants but doesn't have; the diligent get their desires filled." It's true isn't it. If you work hard and apply yourself well you will be able to get the things you want, but don't forget the spiritual things that can satisfy you more than anything else.

Psalm 19:10-12 CJB:

"The rulings of ADONAI are true, they are righteous altogether, more desirable than gold, than much fine gold, also sweeter than honey or drippings from the honeycomb. Through them your servant is warned; in obeying them there is great reward"

We not only need to apply ourselves to life well, but be ready to do God's work whatever that is. One of those ways is to be ready in a humble way to tell others about God. 1 Peter 3:15 CJB says, "Treat the Messiah as holy, as Lord in your hearts; while remaining always ready to give a reasoned answer to anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you - yet with humility and fear." This is something we need to think about and work on. Why do we want to keep God's commandments? "Because He should know what's best for us and we can have a better life." We need to have some answers ready.

We also need to get involved doing things for God. I remember years ago trying to help out in any way I could whether that was sweeping the floor before the meeting or setting up chairs. I decided I was going to do what I could do even if it was something insignificant. Later that turned into going on mission's trips

and teaching. How God leads us and what we do can be very powerful because the Holy Spirit will help us and put power on what we do.

For example, the Holy Spirit can inspire us and give us words. One time I prayed for a woman who had just had a difficult experience with someone. I had a vision of her and I thought God wanted me to pray for her so I went up to her and prayed for her without knowing what had just happened. How about that. God knows everything and can use us in the moment. He not only can heal us physically, but emotionally. God can create mountains and calm seas, create food, heal us, and deliver us. God is powerful and knows and sees all that's going on and is involved with His creation and His people. Ephesians 3:20 CJB says, "Now to him who by his power working in us is able to do far beyond anything we can ask or imagine."

This is an important portion because it has lots of crucial commandments. Society could fall apart if we didn't keep some of these commandments. We need God's commandments and to be faithful to God's commands. We should value them and live by them instead of the way society expects us to act or behave.

Seek what God has for us and His blessings and good ways. He has not left us alone. We can have a more satisfying life through God. Apply ourselves to life and live a good and holy life. The portion for this week is Kedomshim which means, "holy ones." God is holy and we are to be God's holy people.

Be ready to help others understand about God and be willing to help out where you can for the sake of the Messianic message. God is at work in us through the Holy Spirit; He is an amazing and powerful God.