



Small Group Questions

Sunday 05/05/24

Series: Standing Out: The book of Leviticus Sermon: Living a Holy Life - Reading Lev 19:1-19 (covering 17:1 – 20:27)

Way in:

Introducing the sermon, we remembered the story of the 33 Chillian Miners who were rescued from the San José copper–gold mine in Northern Chile, 700 meters underground. One miner recalled his experience of being rescued:

“On the way out, it was terrible, terrible. I screamed. I just wanted to get out, to see the light.”

When we think about our journey of salvation, some of us experienced an ‘all of a sudden’ rescue... suddenly the impact of the cross overwhelmed us, and we were saved. For others, there may have been a gradual coming to receiving salvation.

DISCUSS – In pairs or as a whole group – talk about your experience of salvation – was it ‘all of a sudden’ or gradual – was it through the desire for rescue, or was it the realisation of the depths Jesus went to rescue us?

Once we are saved – the question is ‘how then do we live?’

The book of Leviticus is about a people who have been rescued from captivity in Egypt, and now they need to learn HOW to live.

Michael Green puts it like this; *‘From now on we are called to be what, in God’s view, we already are. We must become in actual practice those new creatures who have risen from the waters of death.’*

DISCUSS – In pairs or as a whole group, discuss what it means, every-day, to live a life set-apart, to live a life of worship?

Chapter 17 is the start of what scholars call the Holiness code, because they focus on how the people are to morally live in communion both with God and the with each other.

Read Chapter 17

Q. *What examples are there in this passage of worship to other Gods still being practiced by the Israelites?*

When we read chapter 18, we read of sexual practices that were to do with worshipping the Gods of the surrounding nations. There were over 2000 deities in Egypt to be worshipped and appeased and some of the acts of worship included sexual rituals, because there were many sexual gods.

Q. *What examples are there in our culture of syncretism – the worship of other Gods/ multiple Gods.*

Read Leviticus 19

Q. Does anything in this chapter strike you as interesting, unexpected/ do you have any questions?

Key verse: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.'

Read NT parallels:

Matthew 5:48

Luke 6:36

1 Peter 1:15-16

The laws were not the hurdles the people of Israel had to overcome to be saved... they were already free... the law was about how to live in freedom. How to live a life of worship as people already saved.

Read Matthew 22:36-40

Q. What example of 'loving our neighbour' are there in chapter 19?

Q. Who are our neighbours?

Q. How might we love our neighbours? Do you have examples of being on the receiving end of this kind of neighbourly love? Can you think of examples of the church, locally or globally expressing this commandment?

PRAY

Pray for God to equip us by His Spirit, to be imitators of God's love

Pray for open eyes to seeing opportunities every day to demonstrate God's love