



Sermon Outline – August 19, 2018

[#45] *Rules of War*

Deuteronomy 20:1–20

Children's Sermon: Truth Three ⁱ

#1 - God is the sovereign Creator of all things. You belong to God.

#2 - God created people for His glory. God created you to know, trust, and love Him most of all.

#3 - God is holy and righteous:

Revelation 15:3b (Singing in Heaven)

...“Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!

Explanation:

- God is so great He is unlike anyone or anything else. **God is holy** – He is perfect in every way. **God is also righteous**—everything He thinks, says, and does is right. He never does anything wrong.
- God made you and me to be like Him, **we must be holy and righteous!** God gave us His holy and righteous commands. They are good. (e.g. 10 Commandments) Tell us what to think, desire, say, and do. God's people must obey, perfectly, all of the time.

Rules:

- What kind of car would you like to drive? Would it be okay for Elliot or Emma to get into a car and drive? Why? Holding Dad's hand... These are **good rules** designed for our good and protection.
- **God's rules are better.** God's rules are the best!

Implication:

- God is holy and righteous. God's commands are holy and righteous. You must obey God's commands all the time. (close with prayer)

Human Life Matters to Yahweh

Review (Deut. 19:1-21)

Deut. 5:17 (Cf. Ex. 20:13) You shall not *murder*.

Genesis 9:6

*“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man **in his own image**.”*

1. Protecting Innocent Blood (Deut. 19:1-21)

Protect the innocent & Destroy the guilty

2. Laws Concerning War (Deut. 20:1–20)

3. Protecting Life in Various Ways (Deut. 21:1–22:8)

Notes:

OT Law?

- ✓ Ceremonial, **Moral, Civil**
- ✓ The Three Uses of the Law: Curb, **Mirror**, Rule

The Principle: The LORD Alone Protects Israel's Life

Do not Fear Bigger Armies (20:1-4)

¹ “When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, ***you shall not be afraid of them***, for **the Lord your God is with you**, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

² And when you draw near to the battle, ***the priest shall come forward and speak to the people*** ³ and shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near for battle against your enemies: let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them, ⁴ for **the Lord your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.**’

Today's Clear Biblical Bullet...

Yahweh alone protects Israel's rich inheritance.



Rules of Eligibility

Those Protected Sent Home (20:5-7)

⁵ **Then the officers** shall speak to the people, saying, ‘Is there any man who has ***built a new house*** and has not dedicated it? Let him go back to his house, ***lest he die in the battle and another man*** dedicate it. ⁶ And is there any man who has ***planted a vineyard*** and has not enjoyed its fruit?... ⁷ And is there any man who has ***betrothed a wife*** and has not taken her?...’

Those Afraid Sent Home (20:8-9)

⁸ **And the officers** shall speak further to the people, and say, ‘***Is there any man who is fearful and fainthearted?*** Let him go back to his house, lest he make the heart of his fellows melt like his own.’ ⁹ ...then commanders shall be appointed at the head of the people.

Rules of Engagement

Cities Far Off (20:10-15)

¹⁰ “When you **draw near to a city to fight** against it, **offer terms of peace to it.** ¹¹ And if it responds to you ***peaceably*** and it opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall do forced labor for you and shall serve you. ¹² **But if it**

makes no peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it. ¹³ And when the Lord your God gives it into your hand, you shall put all its males to the sword, ¹⁴ but the women and the little ones, the livestock, and everything else in the city, all its spoil, you shall take as plunder for yourselves. And you shall enjoy the spoil of your enemies, **which the Lord your God has given you. ...**

Cities in Canaan Condemned to Die (20:16-18)

¹⁶ **But in the cities of these peoples that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes,** ¹⁷ but you shall devote them to complete destruction, the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, **as the Lord your God has commanded,** ¹⁸ that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the Lord your God.

Do not Besiege the Trees (20:19-20)

¹⁹ “**When you besiege a city for a long time,** making war against it in order to take it, **you shall not destroy its trees** by wielding an axe against them. You may eat from them, but you shall not cut them down. **Are the trees in the field human,** that they should be besieged by you? ²⁰ Only the trees that you know are not trees for food you may destroy and cut down, that you may build siegeworks against the city that makes war with you, until it falls.

Key Ideas:

- ✓ Yahweh alone protects Israel’s rich inheritance.
- ✓ The LORD gives life to Israel that no outside enemy can threaten. The most dangerous threat is unbelief!
- ✓ **Trust in God’s goodness and power!**

The Law is a Mirror!

...Fired at our Life & Heart

Our (Israel’s) rich, eternal inheritance is given and secured by Jesus. (Cf. Eph. 2:12–13ff.)



Jesus is Good & Jesus is Powerful!

Ephesians 1:15–21

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease

to **give thanks for you**, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, **that you may know** what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ **when he raised him from the dead** and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Jesus is Good & Jesus is Powerful!

How am I living/thinking like this is not true?

- ✓ We count heads... (Smyrna - Revelation 2:8–11)
- ✓ Fear: Stingy & guilty vs. Generous & thankful
- ✓ Fear: no boldness concerning the hope we have within
- ✓ Be muddle headed about our current quality of life...

What does obedience look like?

- ✓ Deeper Trust, Hope, Rest, Love & Joy (Cf. John 6:28–29)
- ✓ Bold witness
- ✓ Working toward temporary human flourishing without making this the ultimate goal

“If you want a church filled with people who care about their neighborhoods and nations, the only lasting foundation is to help them set their hearts on eternity. True love of neighbor is born out of a love of God. Likewise, the ambition to work for temporary forms of justice will only grow in the soil of a belief in God’s eternal justice.” ⁱⁱ

What does this text teach an unbeliever?

- ✓ You can never secure your own future...
(every security is temporary)

Jesus is Good & Jesus is Powerful!

ⁱ Helping Children to Understand the Gospel

ⁱⁱ Leeman, Jonathan. How the Nations Rage: Rethinking Faith and Politics in a Divided Age (pp. 223-224). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.