

**LEVITICUS 19-21**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Leviticus chapter 19 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

Warren Wiersbe gives us some insight into what we will be looking at this evening as he wrote,

In chapter 19, the Ten Commandments are applied to various areas of life; in chapter 20, the penalties are stated that must be imposed on those who disobey His commandments. God expected His people to take His law seriously and to apply the penalties obediently and without favoritism.

The regulations given in chapter 19 aren't arranged in any discernible order, but the one thing that ties them together is their relationship to the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:1-17), which is the basis for all Jewish law and should be the basis for all moral law. Perhaps the easiest way to classify these laws is to see them in their relationship to God, to others, and to things.

- Warren Wiersbe, the Wiersbe Bible Commentary – OT, pp. 229-230

Now specifically, Leviticus chapter 19 has as its focus holiness through love. And what an important concept as we will see.

The thing is, as we saw when we looked at the Ten Commandments, that if your relationship with the Lord is not right, the first table of the Law, then your relationship with your fellow man will not be right, the second table of the Law!

And that is true for us today as well. Once we start turning from God, not listening to God, not obeying God, then the way we treat others will be off and it can get way off!

Listen to how Allen P. Ross summarizes this chapter for us in his book, *Holiness to the LORD*. He wrote:

It is no surprise that in a section emphasizing so strongly loyalty to the LORD, the God of the covenant, a chapter should be given over completely to reminding the people of God's law.

This chapter may seem too difficult to expound because it appears to be one long list of laws selected at random.

But if it is studied carefully, an exposition of the whole can be developed rather well. In spite of its many details, its theme, well known to most Christians thanks to its citation by Peter (1 Pet. 1:15-16), is "Be holy because I am holy." The chapter provides a "rapid panoramic tour" of what it means to be holy.

It is not, however, simply a list of laws to be followed. It is an exhortation to the people of God to live out the holiness of God as a natural part of their lives.

And the means by which they are to do this is love, which is in harmony with Deut. 6:4-5: "Hear O Israel, the LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

On the basis of this instruction, Jesus explained that the greatest commandment was to "love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matt. 22:37-38). Then he added that the second command was like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (22:39).

These are the two greatest commandments, for they summarize the whole law.

One can thus say that the way to become holy is to keep the commandments, but the way to keep the commandments is by loving God and loving people.

- Allen P. Ross, *Holiness to the LORD*, p. 351

With that as our background this evening, let's begin reading in Leviticus chapter 19, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

## LEVITICUS 19

### VERSES 1-2

When we read the word "**holy**" we may have all kinds of ideas of what it means. But the simplest is that it means "*set apart.*" Or you can think of it like this, *dedicated or consecrated, set apart to God.*

In regard to God, He is separate from all of His creation and there is no darkness in Him at all. Pure holiness and everything that He does is right, it is just.

Peter picked up on that, as we have read, in I Peter 1:15-16 as he wrote, "**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.'**"

Now please understand that Peter did not say, nor do we read it here in Leviticus, that the Lord wants us to be as holy as He is because that will not happen in these bodies of flesh!

But He wants us to be holy, to be like Him. It is as Morgan wrote, "*A people created and governed by God are intended to represent Him and the truth concerning Him to other people.*"

That should just make sense to us.

The problem today is that we are being told that morals change depending on the society and the period of time you are living in.

Yes, morals may change but not according to God! He has established what is right and what is wrong, and it was for back then as well as for today!

You see, human morality is based upon, and it rests upon, the unchanging name of God!

Thus, sin is still sin today and God calls us as He called the children of Israel to walk in holiness and not in sin!

In fact, think of the word “**holiness**” as wholeness because that is what God wants in our lives and that is what will flow as we walk in His ways, we will be whole!

We are to separate ourselves from the worlds ways and live unto God!

May we not be like the world but like the **LORD!**

### VERSE 3

We start out here with the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment found in Exodus 20:12, honoring your parents!

I find this interesting because what we see is that holiness to the Lord begins in the home as children respect their parents, which speaks of their attitude.

The problem comes when this gets out of order. The result of not honoring your parents is that the foundations of society will begin to crumble! And look at what we see today in America.

The next point here is the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment found in Exodus 20:8-11, keeping the Sabbath.

You see, a house in order will obey the Lord.

Here they were to keep the Sabbaths. Thus, if you do not respect your parents, you are not submitting to the Lord, and thus, they, more than likely, were not keeping the Sabbath!

Now what about today, are we to keep the Sabbath?

Keep in mind that when Jesus came, He became our Sabbath rest. These were pictures of what was to come, Jesus!

Thus, as Christians we are not obligated to keep the Sabbath Day, but we should take that time to spend with the Lord and our families.

Paul put it like this in Colossians 2:16-17, **“So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”**

Don't hold onto the picture, hold on to Jesus is the idea because He is the substance!

And the rest we experience with Jesus is not just one day a week, but it is every day. And the idea here is that we don't have to work our way into heaven because Jesus has finished the work and we rest in that!

#### VERSE 4

Here we see the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment found in Exodus 20:4-6, that we are to have no idols before God.

The Hebrew word for **“idol”** is *ELIYL* (el-eel) and it speaks of being good for nothing, empty, of no value.

Here is the true and living God who offers to us all things that are good, He wants to bless us, and man goes after idols, which are nothing.

Then why do we make idols for ourselves?

We make them so we can justify our sin, for pleasure, self-worship, financial success and so on. And in the end, they will only bring you into captivity, they are worthless!

That is what brought the Southern Kingdom of Judah into captivity in Babylon, the idols that they worshipped were everywhere!

But, as David Guzik tells us, *“After the Babylonian captivity, Israel was cured of her gross idolatry of molded gods and began a more dangerous form of idolatry – idolatry of the nation itself, idolatry of the temple and its ceremonies, and an idolatry of tradition.”*

And we do see that in the New Testament played out for us!

#### VERSES 5-8

The peace offering spoke of fellowship with God and thus, it was a freewill offering. You were not forced to fellowship with God because that is not true fellowship.

And God wants this fellowship to be fresh, not stale, that you would partake of it the same day you offered it to the Lord. You could even partake of it the next day but after that, God would not accept it!

In fact, if you do this, partake of it the third day, you have “**. . . profaned the hallowed offering of the LORD . . .**” Leviticus 19:8.

Now, *“To profane something is to treat it as if it were not sacred. The whole expression may be rendered ‘has shown his spite for what belongs to the LORD’ or ‘has desecrated something the Lord considers sacred.’”* (Peter-Contesse)

God wants our fellowship to be made of our own freewill, not forced!

And He wants it fresh, not stale, so we should fellowship with Him every day!

VERSES 9-10

This was a good welfare system you might say.

What do I mean by that?

If you owned land, you were not to completely harvest it. You could go through once, don't completely harvest the corners and then when you were done, the poor could come in and glean from what was left for themselves.

If they wanted to eat, they needed to work!

That sounds good to me. I wish that principle was put into practice today in our country.

And here we see the farmers who had a generous heart and the poor had good work ethics, they worked for their food.

It is what we see Ruth doing in Ruth chapter 2.

VERSES 11-13

Pretty straight forward commands of the Lord. They should just make sense but then, in these bodies of flesh, we like to justify our actions, as wrong as they may be.

Look at what the Lord tells us here.

- ***We are not to steal!***
- ***We are not to deal falsely with people, be honest!***
- ***We are not to lie!***
- ***We shall not swear falsely using the Lord's name nor profane His name!***
- ***We are not to defraud [trick] our neighbor and we are not to rob him!***
- ***We are to pay those we hire right away and not hold their wages back!***

God wants us honest in all that we do. You see, in all that we do we are representing Him!

VERSE 14

Here we see God speak of basic human compassion.

Now, did God even need to say this?

I guess He did for man tends to put down those who have a handicap!

Clarke put it like this, *“He who is capable of doing this, must have a heart cased with cruelty.”*

So we are to treat the handicap with respect and the other principle here is that God did not curse them.

That is the theology though that came forth and it was even seen in the disciples of Jesus in the New Testament. In John 9:1-2 we are told, **“Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’”**

In other words, either this person sinned in the womb before he was born, or his parents sinned and that is why he was born blind!

Was that true?

No, and Jesus responded to this question by saying, **“Neither”** to correct their error and we see the Lord say the same here in Leviticus 19:14.

How does that relate to us?

Besides the obvious of treating people kindly and with respect, there is a spiritual principle here.

The deaf are the unsaved in a sense, for they can't hear the voice of God.

We are not to put them down, but we are to show them the love of Christ!



The blind are those that are not saved, they can't see the things of God and instead of tripping them up, let them see the love of God.

In I John 4:9-11 John tells us, **“In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”**

#### VERSES 15-16

We are not to show partiality to anyone but in all our judgments, we are to be fair, we are to do what is right.

Also, a talebearer is not of God! Telling tales does no good but it hurts the person you are speaking about; it hurts the person you are telling it to, and it will hurt you!

We are to protect life, not destroy it!

#### VERSES 17-18

It is not just outward actions, but this love towards others is a matter of the heart. And if you can't do this, then your relationship with God is off.

Let me sum this up for us and you will see what I mean. That love is not just a feeling, it is an act of your will! You do have a choice, to obey the Lord or what you want to do.

Jesus put it like this in John 13:34-35, **“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

Love is a powerful emotion and as we love the unloving, love those who hate us, it will show them and others that we are Christians as we manifest the love of God towards them!

And please understand that we are to love people unconditionally, from the heart.

Yes, when a brother is in sin he needs to be rebuked, but that is done in love, and it is done because you love him! The idea is for that person's restoration not their destruction!

Now we do like to get back at people and we might not like the word for this, but it is revenge! And that is not love!

Paul, in Romans 12:19 tells us, **"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord."**

We like to get back at people for the wrong they have done to us, get even but God tells us He will take care of it, we are to love them, not condone their sin as I have said, but extend the love of Christ to them.

And when you do, don't bear a grudge, let it go and let love flow!

Too often people bury the hatchet and leave the handle sticking out just in case they might need to use it.

God is telling us we are not to be like the world that does those things, we are to be like Him!

### VERSE 19

Why did God say this?

It does seem kind of strange, doesn't it?

Because the pagan world did this and they saw it as a source of magical powers and thus, God did not want His people to practice it.

How does that apply to us?

We are not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. You see, light and darkness don't mix.

#### VERSES 20-22

This is speaking of a slave girl who was to be married but another man has sex with her. For this there was no death penalty, she was not free. But a trespass offering was needed to be made by the man and this man then, it would seem, had to marry her.

One writer adds this insight into this situation. He wrote, ***“It is worth noting that only the man was considered blameworthy, not the female slave. Being a slave, the woman may have felt she had little recourse in resisting a male who was a free man and thus more powerful both in the social and economic spheres.”*** (Rooker)

#### VERSES 23-25

When they came into the land of Canaan and planted fruit trees, they were not to eat of the fruit for three years, and in the fourth year it was to be given to the Lord.

Then, in the fifth year it was theirs to eat.

Now, from what I understand, this practice allowed the trees to bear more fruit.

I also see that the Lord wanted them to trust in Him, that He would provide for them if they obeyed Him!

VERSES 26-31

First of all, as we have seen in previous studies, the pagans would drink the blood of animals and people they sacrificed believing they would receive their life energy! Thus, God did not want His people practicing these things.

This hair thing, shaving the sides of your head and-so-on, was a pagan mourning practice and once again God did not want His people to do this.

Cutting your flesh, tattoos were once again part of this pagan mourning practices.

Does that mean we should not get tattoos?

That is not what the text is saying. I don't think I would get a tattoo, but that is me and that is just a personal choice, not a Scriptural command.

But let me also say this. If your tattoo is pagan, occultic, evil, then you should not have it.

One writer gives us some insight into what these tattoos that God forbid were all about. He wrote, "*The tattoo indicated that one was a slave to a particular deity.*" (Rooker)

We also need to understand that some standards change in a society that are not necessarily in the Scriptures, they just change.

Like the length of your hair, women wearing a covering on their heads, and-so-on, those things change.

In Paul's day, if a woman did not wear a head covering then people would think she was a prostitute because prostitutes had their heads uncovered in Corinth.

Thus, Paul encourages the women to wear a head covering so that you don't confuse people. (I Corinthians 11:5-6).

Yes, you have the freedom in Christ not to, but don't use your liberty to cause another to stumble!

Here is a tough one. Who would prostitute their daughter?

I think the context here is to give them over to the temple to be temple prostitutes, a religious experience you might say in the pagan world.

And God is saying don't even think about it!

We also see that God forbids necromancy or communicating with the dead, why?

Because you are not communicating with your dead loved ones, but with a demonic spirit who can pretend to be your dead relative!

In Isaiah 8:19-20 we are told, **“And when they say to you, ‘Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,’ should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”**

Why seek the dead when you can seek the living God!

Folks, as Christians we are to stay away from these practices, this garbage. We should not seek out our horoscope, go to fortune-tellers, use tarot cards, and so on!

Israel did and God removed His light from them, and they walked in darkness!

### VERSES 32-36

I kind of like verse 32 now, since I am getting just a little gray, well, maybe more than just a little!

Today, in our society there is a lack of respect for the elderly, but in God's economy, He tells us it is not only right to hear them, but it is wise to listen to them!

Also, you are to treat strangers fairly, love them, care for them.

And you are to have honest scales or sell things fairly.

### VERSE 37

We see some 15 times in this chapter “**I am the LORD.**”

And because He is *YAHWEH*, He has the right to tell us how we are to live.

And, because He loves us, He does tell us how to live and then He gives us the power to obey by His Spirit empowering us!

## LEVITICUS 20

### VERSES 1-5

We dealt with this back in Leviticus 18:21, and God is once again warning the children of Israel not to sacrifice their children to the god Molech.

As we have seen, they would place their child in the outstretched arms of this god, after it was heated red-hot, and they burned their children to death. They would also beat drums to drown out the screams of the child until it burned to death. Horrible and we are no different as we murder children in the womb!

Also, if anyone did practice this they were to be put to death and if they weren't, the Lord says that He will deal with it, “**. . . I will set My face against that man and against his family; and I will cut him off from his people, and all who prostitute themselves with him to commit harlotry with Molech.**” Leviticus 20:5.

I find it interesting that God tells us we are not to ignore sin because by doing so you are condoning it. In other words, by watching sin, listening to sin, you may not commit the act, but you are just as guilty.

Paul picks up on this in the New Testament when he tells us in Romans 1:32, “**... that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.**”

Did Israel listen to what God said to them?

Not at all!

In fact, Solomon built a temple for this idol. (I Kings 11:7)

And King Manasseh, who was the King in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, offered his son to Molech.

We are told in II Kings 21:6, “**Also he made his son pass through the fire, practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger.**”

In fact, it was idolatry that brought both the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah into captivity.

May we learn the lesson!

#### VERSES 6-8

Once again God is coming against these occultic practices and is warning His people to stay away from them.

Tragically, we are seeing New Age and eastern mysticism come right into the church and few see anything wrong with it!

Now, here in Leviticus 20 verses 7 and 8, I find interesting.

First of all, we are told to “**consecrate yourselves,**” that is our part, obeying the Lord.

But it is not just us, we also read, “**I Am the LORD who sanctifies you.**” That is God’s part, but we must walk.

Yes, He does the work, but He does it as we yield to Him!

It is as Paul reminds us in I Thessalonians 5:23-24, “**Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.**”

He will finish the work He has begun in our lives!

Remember in Acts chapter 19 how Paul preached in the city of Ephesus and many of the people got saved. What did they do after they got saved?

Let me share this with you from Acts 19:17-20, “**This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.**”

When you come to know the Lord, He will sanctify you and you will let go of those things that are evil as we see here with the Ephesian believers! They turned to God and moved away from mediums and familiar spirits! They got rid of those things that were not of God!



VERSE 9

This of course is not speaking of a small child but a rebellious adult and where there is no respect in the home, then there will be no respect anywhere, as I have said.

Now please don't get the idea that a parent can just fly off the handle and kill his child if he is disobedient!

Listen to what we are told in Deuteronomy 21:18-21, **“If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. And they shall say to the elders of his city, ‘This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.’ Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.”**

There was protection for the child as well as protection for society as a whole!

VERSE 10

The penalty for adultery was death of both people involved, why?

Because God has established the family unit and this kind of activity destroys the family, and God was not going to tolerate that!

VERSES 11-12

Here we see the penalty for incest – ***DEATH!***

We saw that the specific laws against incest were more completely explained in Leviticus 18:6-18.

VERSE 13

For those who think that homosexuality is not spoken against in the Bible, think again! Homosexuality is as much a sin as these other sexual sins, and it was the death penalty for those who practiced this.

VERSE 14

Now I don't believe they were burned in the fire for this, but I tend to agree with how Adam Clarke sees this.

He wrote, ***“It is very likely that the crime mentioned in this verse was not punished by burning alive, but by some kind of branding, by which they were ever after rendered infamous. . . . Branding with a hot iron would certainly accomplish every desirable end both for punishment and prevention.”***

VERSES 15-16

Here again we see the death penalty for bestiality. Again, how wicked can people become? We don't have to guess because we are living in a day where man has turned his back on God and God has given them over to do whatever is in their heart and we see the perversion growing today!

VERSES 17-21

Here we see the penalty for these sins as not being death but cut off from the people until their sin was atoned for. But there was still a penalty.

VERSES 22-26

God wanted His people to be holy, to be set apart from the wickedness of the Canaanites who were living in the land.

And just as God was calling the children of Israel to be holy, set apart for His glory, He is calling us to do the same.

It is as R. E. Clements wrote, *“Every biblical statement about God carries with it an implied demand upon man to imitate Him in daily living.”*

You see, that is what is best for our lives and thus, that is what God desires of us!

VERSE 27

If you went to a medium, the penalty for that was you would be cut off from your people, (Leviticus 20:6).

But, if you practiced this occult activity, then you were to be put to death!

Why is this penalty so strict?

Because the penalty for leading someone else into sin is greater, you are responsible.

In Matthew 18:6 Jesus made this very point as He tells us, **“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”**

**LEVITICUS 21****VERSES 1-4**

Death is a result of sin in this world. Thus, dead bodies made a person ceremonially unclean and thus, a priest was not to touch or be around a dead body unless it was a close relative.

One writer summed it up like this. He wrote,

Therefore, in contrast to most of the pagan religious systems of Israel's neighbors, the priests did not prepare dead bodies for burial. Holiness gives *life*; God did not want His holy priests to be too closely associated with *death*.

God did not want His priests and His worship to be dominated by death, but by life. God also did not want His priests anywhere near the death cults of the pagans.

- David Guzik, Leviticus 21

**VERSE 5**

Like the people, the priests were not to practice the pagan mourning practices.

As one writer said, *"This has nothing to do with natural baldness (as in chapter 13) but involves the intentional shaving of a part of the head to make a bald spot. This was done by some to mourn the dead."* (Peter-Contesse)

VERSES 6-9

Just like the people, the priests were to be holy or set apart unto God.

We also see that the priests were only to marry virgins, which spoke of purity.

So not only were the priests to have this purity but also the woman they were to marry must as well have this purity!

Even the priest's daughter was held to a high standard. If she played the harlot she would, probably not be put to death, but branded with fire to make her as one who is unfaithful and to let all around her know!

VERSES 10-15

Here we see the responsibility for the High Priest. He was not to do as the pagans did when they mourned for their dead – the uncovering of their head and tearing of their clothes.

Again, in taking a wife she must be a virgin, which again speaks of her purity.

VERSES 16-23

Here we see the command that the ministering priests must be free from defect.

Now, as we read this you may be thinking, ***“This seems so unfair, why did God say that those who have a handicap couldn't serve Him?”***

I don't think God is picking on the handicap; in fact, He is a fighter of the underdog or those that are less fortunate.

And please understand that the Lord is not saying that they are not His. It was certain things that they were not able to perform, but **“He may eat the bread of his God, both the most holy and the holy.”** Leviticus 21:22.

These people were only prevented from serving; they were still supplied with food by the priesthood.

I also think that the command against the priestly service of those with physical defects was meant to point to the even more obvious need to be free from spiritual defects when coming to God.

He was not putting them down, but He was portraying for us a spiritual truth, that the High Priest and the priests had to be free from spiritual defects if they were going to serve the Lord!

What does that mean?

A defect or a blemish speaks of spiritual principles. It speaks of not being obedient, not living out the truths of God found in the Word of God. You are not to have a defect or blemish as you serve the Lord!

If you were blind you are not to serve the Lord, for if you lack vision, where are you going to lead the people?

In Proverbs 29:18, from The Amplified Bible, we are told, **“Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man] - blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he. [1 Sam 3:1; Amos 8:11,12.]”** You must lead as God is leading you!

Being lame means you can't walk and if you are going to serve the Lord you must be able to walk in the ways of God and not be carried away by winds of doctrine, jumping here and jumping there.

If your face is marred, or literally if you have a flat nose, you can't serve. In other words, if you can't smell, you can't discern between good and bad, you couldn't serve. A priest must be able to have good discernment! Something we are not seeing today – ***DISCERNMENT!***

If your limb is too long, you couldn't serve the Lord. In other words, those who go off on superfluous paths can't serve God; you need to focus on Jesus. You need to keep the main thing the main thing!

Today so many are seeking new truths, hidden things that no one else has found in the Scriptures. But, as I have said before, ***“If it is new, it is not true and if it is true, it is not new!”***

If you had a broken foot, you couldn't serve the Lord. Why is that? Because you need to be able to stand strong and the reason is simple. Because as you serve the Lord there will be all kinds of difficult things that will come your way. Don't let anything move you from the path that God has set for you!

That is Paul's point in Acts 20:22-24, **“And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”**

May we have that kind of passion and not let anything move us from the course that God has set for us!

You couldn't serve the Lord if you had a broken hand. Here I believe the idea is you must be able to reach out to others, to people, you need to touch them as Jesus did!

If you were hunchbacked, you couldn't serve the Lord. In other words, you need to have a backbone and do what is right, not what is popular!

Folks, it is not easy, over the last 28 years I have had to make some decisions that were difficult, but I knew what the Lord wanted, and I did them, even though they were not popular.

Some of you may feel I am not doing things the way you would do them, and that is true, I am not you. Sorry, but that is the reality, I have to follow the Lord and if you are going to serve the Lord you need to have a backbone!

If you were a dwarf, no comments by any of you, you couldn't serve the Lord. Here the idea is that you are not growing and if you are not growing, you will not allow the people you are overseeing to grow because they will not grow in the Lord unless you lead them!

If you have a blemish in your eye, a defect you couldn't serve the Lord because as a leader you need to be able to see clearly the things of God and not have things cloud your vision!

If you have eczema or a scab, the Lord says you couldn't serve Him. This may be pointing to the fact that you had to have thick skin and not let things irritate you.

Again, over the past 28 years I have been called a lot of names, some good, some not so good. I have had to let it go so I don't get distracted from what the Lord has called me to do!

And lastly, a eunuch couldn't serve the Lord because he would be barren. Thus, you need to reproduce, bear fruit in your life by seeing people come to Jesus, to grow in the Lord!

Now, don't be discouraged, because today, none of us are qualified. Our sufficiency is in Christ and as He calls us, He will supply us with what we need to carry out the task before us.

We must walk in obedience, which is our part and allow God to do His!



VERSE 24

God told Moses who then passed it on to Aaron and the priests and then finally to the children of Israel. They knew what God wanted and they were now responsible to obey. It is as Jesus said in Revelation 2:29, "**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**" May we hear and obey!