

**Moses – part 24**  
*When a bull kills a man*  
**by Victor Torres**

Have you ever thought that there are too many rules at home? I certainly thought so when I was a kid growing up.

“Do this”.

“Do that”.

“Don't do this”.

“Don't do that”.

“If you do that again, I'll spank you”.

Too many rules to follow. Don't you ever wish that there are no rules? Maybe you just wish that there weren't so many rules.

Imagine this. You go out with your mom to buy groceries. You're very excited because your mom told you she's buying your favorite ice cream today. As you sat in the car and put on your seat belt, you wished your mom would buy a gallon today instead of the usual half-gallon that she buys.

When you left your driveway, you can barely contain your excitement. As your mom turned the corner, you can taste that wonderful, velvety, delicious ice cream in your mouth. You're looking up ahead to see how far you are from the grocery store. One last stop light! You wish the lights would turn green just in time for you to cross the intersection. You can see the grocery store now.

Your heart is beating fast. The excitement is too much for you. So you closed your eyes and imagined carefully putting two scoops of this taste bud heaven in a sugar cone and eating it as slowly as you can.

All of a sudden, your mom hit the breaks so hard it made the tires screech so loudly and jerked you forward violently. You opened your eyes and looked up. You saw another car zooming pass in front of you. Then you hear a loud thud - that awful sound of a large metal object crashing into another large metal object. More tires screeching as other cars try to avoid hitting the two cars that are now stopped in the middle of the intersection.

You went passed the intersection and your mom pulled over at a parking lot. But it's not the grocery store's parking lot. It was a parking lot of an office building. She looked back at you and said “I'm sorry honey. We need to call the police to sort this out. They will also send an ambulance to make sure no one is hurt”.

You think “Oh no, this could take hours!” You're mom pulled out her cellphone and looked back again. As if she can read your mind, she said, “I'm sorry, I know your excited to get the ice cream, but I need to tell the police what we saw.”

"Can't someone else tell the police what happened?" you thought. "I'm sure someone else saw it!"

"Someone ran a stop light", your mom continued. "Someone broke a law, and they need to pay". "Just be thankful we were not the one he crashed into".

Get it? Someone broke the law. Someone got hurt as a result, and he who broke the rule has to pay for the damages. **Rules are there to protect you.**

If there is no rule to stop at a red light or a stop sign, then accidents like the one we just went over would happen a lot more frequently. Here in the U.S. we have traffic rules to slow down cars to protect the kids who are going to school. It would be too dangerous for you to go out in the streets if there were no traffic rules to protect you.

Rules are there to protect you. The same thing is true with these rules which we are looking at in the Bible. They were given to Moses and Israel to protect those who are being mistreated. And they were given to set the punishment for those who are doing wrong.

[Exo 21:28 \(ERV\) "If a man's bull kills a man or woman, then you should use stones and kill that bull. You should not eat the bull. The owner of the bull is not guilty.](#)

A bull is a male cow. We are dealing with an angry cow here. The people of Israel were shepherds, so this kind of thing probably happened more often than we think. If an angry cow kills someone, then kill that cow, but don't eat it. That's a weird rule isn't it? Some of you may think that's a waste of good steak.

But it makes sense if you think about it. The family of the man or woman who was killed will obviously suffer. Although the owner of the bull is not guilty, he will also suffer by not allowing him to eat the killed bull. But why should he be punished? I thought he was not guilty? Stay tuned. We'll see the reason later.

This next rule is related to that first rule we saw:

[Exo 21:29 \(ERV\) But if the bull had hurt people in the past, and if the owner was warned, then the owner is guilty. That is because he did not keep the bull tied or locked in its place. So if the bull is allowed to be free and kills someone, the owner is guilty. You should kill the bull with stones and also kill the owner.](#)

Very different situation here. The owner was told that his bull had hurt people in the past, but he didn't keep it tied up or fenced up. This time, not only the bull is killed, but also the owner! Some of you may think this rule is a bit extreme. But the owner acted recklessly here. He didn't care if other people can get hurt. He still let his bull, which hurt people before, roam around freely.

Our Lord told His followers:

Luk 12:47 (GNB) "The servant who knows what his master wants him to do, but does not get himself ready and do it, will be punished with a heavy whipping.

Luk 12:48 But the servant who does not know what his master wants, and yet does something for which he deserves a whipping, will be punished with a light whipping. Much is required from the person to whom much is given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given.

So if you know the rules and still don't do it, you will be punished severely. And even if you don't know the rules, but you still have broken it, you will be punished but you will be punished lightly. You'll notice that no one is punished forever.

Are you getting the connection here? Here are the two rules again:

Exo 21:28 (ERV) "If a man's bull kills a man or woman, **then you should use stones and kill that bull. You should not eat the bull.** The owner of the bull is not guilty.

Exo 21:29 But if the bull had hurt people in the past, and if the owner was warned, then the owner is guilty. That is because he did not keep the bull tied or locked in its place. So if the bull is allowed to be free and kills someone, the owner is guilty. **You should kill the bull with stones and also kill the owner.**

The first owner is punished lightly (by not letting him eat his cow). The second owner is punished severely (by being stoned to death). The second owner in a sense "knew his master's will" but still did not do it.

Exo 21:30 (ERV) But the family of the dead man may accept money. If they accept money, the man who owned the bull should not be killed. **But he must pay as much money as the judge decides.**

Exo 21:31 "This same law must be followed if the bull kills someone's son or daughter.

That second owner can escape death if the family of the dead man is willing to accept money. But he must pay as much as the judge decides. Don't ever think that these judges will go lightly on how much this owner must pay. Remember, his bull has killed a dad, a mom, a son or a daughter because of his reckless actions.

We naturally don't care about others, that's why rules like these were given to Israel:

Exo 21:33 (ERV) "A man might take a cover off a well or dig a hole and not cover it. If another man's animal comes and falls into that hole, the man who owns the hole is guilty.

Exo 21:34 The man who owns the hole must pay for the animal. But after he pays for the animal, he will be allowed to keep the body of that animal.

Exo 21:35 "If one man's bull kills another man's bull, they should sell the bull that is alive. Both men will get half of the money that comes from selling the bull, and both men will also get half of the bull that was killed.

Exo 21:36 (GNB) But if it was known that the bull had been in the habit of attacking and its owner did not keep it penned up, he must make good the loss by giving the other man a live bull, but he may keep the dead animal.

As we saw last time, there is a special law when a slave is involved.

Exo 21:32 (ERV) **But if the bull kills a slave, the owner of the animal must pay the master 30 pieces of silver.** And the bull must also be killed with stones. This law will be the same for men and women slaves.

Thirty pieces of silver is the price of a slave. That's the same amount given to Judas for betraying our Lord Jesus. This is not a coincidence. There is a connection here. Again this is telling us of our Lord's servant attitude. He said He came to serve and not to be served. He was submissive to His earthly parents, Joseph and Mary. He continues to be submissive to His heavenly Father.

But we don't have the same attitude as Him. We naturally don't like rules. We naturally want to disobey those who are in charge.

The Bible calls us beasts or animals:

Ecc 3:18 (ERV) I thought about what people do to each other. And I said to myself, **"God wants people to see that they are like animals.**

When we look at how we treat each other, we can begin to see that we do act like animals. We hurt each other just to get what we want.

That's why our Lord tells us to humble ourselves like a little child. No matter how old we are, we must be like a child who follows the rules that he or she is given.

Moses was appointed by the Lord to lead Israel. Moses then appointed judges to implement the laws given to them. They are Israel's government back then. And Israel had to obey Moses and these judges.

Rom 13:1 (ESV) **Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.** For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Rom 13:2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

Although these rules given to Moses and Israel don't directly apply to us now, the lesson here is we must be obedient to those whom God appointed over us. In our family, it is our dad and mom who sets the rules. In a country, it is the government that sets the rules.

If you go to a school, you must obey the school rules. If you are in a club, you must obey the club rules.

If you resist us your parents, you are resisting God, because we are appointed by Him to set the rules at home. If you break the rule, God has also given us as parents the power to punish you.

Rom 13:3 (ESV) For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. **Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,**

Rom 13:4 for he is God's servant for your good. **But if you do wrong, be afraid,** for he does not bear the sword in vain. **For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.**

But what if you don't like a rule or a law? Can you disobey them?

1Pe 2:13 (KJV) **Submit yourselves to every ordinance (rules, laws) of man** for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

1Pe 2:14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

It doesn't matter. The apostle Peter said, whether we like it or not, we must obey every rule for the Lord's sake.

There is one exception where we must draw a line though. If a rule or law is against the teachings of God in the Bible, then we must obey God rather than men.

Act 5:29 (ESV) But Peter and the apostles answered, "**We must obey God rather than men.**"

If the government wants us to pay 50 percent of our income as taxes, then we obey it for the Lord's sake. But if they tell us to join the military and kill our