

Moses – part 25

When a bull kills a slave

by Victor Torres

We are learning the rules or laws given to Moses and Israel. These rules came from God. Moses didn't make these laws up. But didn't we say these laws don't apply to us anymore? Why are we still studying them?

That's a good question.

Some of you may say:

"I get it. If we lose an eye or a tooth when someone hits us, we don't demand for them to also lose an eye or a tooth. We love our enemies and we forgive those who sinned against us."

"I get it already, so can we move on to the story of Jesus Christ?"

But we are looking at His story here in the Old Testament.

"What?!?"

Luk 24:27 Then he began to explain everything that had been written **about himself** in the Scriptures. He started with the books of Moses and then he talked about what the prophets had said about him.

There you go! Jesus Christ explained to His disciples "everything that had been written about himself in the Scriptures". When He was explaining the Scriptures or holy writings, He was talking about the Old Testament. The New Testament wasn't written yet back then.

The verse above says "He started with the books of Moses". This book of Exodus that we are studying is one of the books of Moses.

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.**

Where in those verses does it talk about Jesus Christ? Those are talking about angry bulls and careless owners who will be killed because they didn't tie up those angry bulls.

Are they just talking about angry bulls and careless owners?

Psa 22:1 (ERV) To the director: To the tune "The Deer of Dawn." A song of David. My God, my God, why have you left me? You seem too far away to save me, too far to hear my cries for help!

Psa 22:2 My God, I kept calling by day, and I was not silent at night. But you did not answer me.

Psa 22:3 God, you are the Holy One. You sit as King upon the praises of Israel.

Psa 22:4 Our ancestors trusted you. Yes, they trusted you, and you saved them.

Psa 22:5 They called to you for help and escaped their enemies. They trusted you and were not disappointed!

Psa 22:6 But I feel like a worm, less than human! People insult me and look down on me.

Who is talking here? Who said "My God, My God, why have you left me?" Who is feeling like a worm because of all the insults he is getting? Let's look at what this person says further:

Psa 22:7 (ERV) Everyone who sees me makes fun of me. They shake their heads and stick out their tongues at me.

Psa 22:8 They say, "Call to the LORD for help. Maybe he will save you. If he likes you so much, surely he will rescue you!"

Any guesses? Let's skip to verse 16 and see who is speaking here:

Psa 22:16 (ERV) The "dogs" are all around me-- a pack of evil people has trapped me. **They have pierced my hands and feet.**

It's our Lord Jesus Christ! He's the one who said "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?". He's the one who was insulted and spat on. He's the one whose hands and feet were pierced when they nailed Him to the cross.

Who did those things to Him? His enemies. He called them "dogs", a pack of evil people who has trapped Him. What else did He call His enemies?

Psa 22:9 (ERV) God, the truth is, you are the one who brought me into this world. You made me feel safe while I was still at my mother's breasts.

Psa 22:10 You have been my God since the day I was born. I was thrown into your arms as I came from my mother's womb.

Psa 22:11 So don't leave me! Trouble is near, and there is no one to help me.

Psa 22:12 **My enemies surround me like angry bulls.** They are like the powerful bulls of Bashan, and they are all around me.

Psa 22:13 Their mouths are opened wide, like a lion roaring and tearing at its prey.

Psa 22:14 My strength is gone, like water poured out on the ground. My bones have separated. My courage is gone.

Psa 22:15 My mouth is as dry as a piece of baked pottery. My tongue is sticking to the roof of my mouth. You have left me dying in the dust.

Psa 22:16 The "dogs" are all around me-- a pack of evil people has trapped me. They have pierced my hands and feet.

Psa 22:17 I can see each one of my bones. My enemies are looking at me; they just keep staring.

Psa 22:18 They divide my clothes among themselves, and they throw lots for what I am wearing.

Psa 22:19 LORD, don't leave me! You are my strength--hurry and help me!

Psa 22:20 Save me from the sword. Save my precious life from these dogs.

Psa 22:21 Rescue me from the lion's mouth. **Protect me from the horns of the bulls.**

There it is! "My enemies surround me like angry bulls." "Protect me from the horns of the bulls".

When we see these verses talking about angry bulls, it is talking about our Lord's enemies. Our Lord is the victim here. He is the man who was killed by the angry bull.

The sad truth is we all are that angry bull. We are the enemies of Christ who insulted Him and nailed Him to the cross.

How can I say that? He died for our sins, so we are all guilty of His death.

We must live by every word that comes out of the mouth of God, so we must also see ourselves as that first owner.

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.**

We are that first owner who can't eat his dead bull. What are we being told when it says "you must not eat a bull that killed a man"? We are being told not to follow the desires of our flesh.

Gal 5:16 (KJV) *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

How do we walk in the spirit? We follow His teachings in the Bible. If we do that, we will not follow the desires of the flesh.

We should also see ourselves as the second owner. He was warned that his bull has harmed other people before, but he did not do the right thing. He did not tie up this destructive animal but instead he let it roam around freely.

When we are warned of our evil ways and still we continue to sin, then we will be punished more severely.

The penalty for sin is death. But there is an escape for us.

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.*

Who is the family of the dead man? We already know the dead man is Jesus Christ. Who is His brothers, and His sisters, and His mother? It's the body of Christ!

The body of Christ are also the judges who will be determining how much that sinning owner will pay.

There is a set price for when a bull kills a slave. The judges will not need to determine how much the owner must pay.

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.*

So even if an owner was neglectful in tying up a bull that is known to harm others, he just have to pay thirty pieces of silver. If we see ourselves as that neglectful owner, we will be praising God. We don't need to worry if the family will accept money, we just have to pay thirty pieces of silver to the owner of the slave.

As you probably has guessed already, Christ sees himself as the slave who was killed. His master is, of course, God the Father. Our Lord lived all His life serving the Father.

So what is the meaning of that thirty pieces of silver which we have to pay? As we mentioned before, silver is the symbol of being saved. Thirty is but a multiple of the number three. And we know that three is a symbol of the process of being judged. This means we will pay for our sins by going through God's judgment.

Everyone has sinned, so everyone must pay for their sins by going through God's judgment.

Jas 2:12 (CEV) Speak and act like people who will be judged by the law that sets us free.

Jas 2:13 Do this, because on the day of judgment there will be no pity for those who have not had pity on others. **But even in judgment, God is merciful!**

“But even in judgment, God is merciful!” What wonderful news!

Some of us will be judged in this life, but most of us will be judged in the lake of fire. But the same result will be produced; we will all learn righteousness. We will all be like Jesus Christ.