

# DEUTERONOMY 24-26

April 1, 2012

Today we will study **chapters 24 through 26** of the book of Deuteronomy. These chapters contain various laws that the Jews were to follow.

## **24:1-4 Who can explain what we are told in chapter 24 verses 1 to 4?**

- If someone divorces a woman, she remarries, and then her husband dies, the first husband cannot remarry her. This same thing is said in **Jeremiah 3:1**.

## **We are not told, but what do you think to be the reason for this law?**

- Moral purity is a **HUGE deal in Scripture**. One man was to be with one woman for life (**Matthew 19:5-6**). **Deuteronomy 22:20-21** tells us that a person was to be executed for having had sex before marriage. The following verses (**22:22-30**) make it clear that anyone having sex was to be married to that person.

## **24:5 What do we learn about marriage from verse 5?**

- Most marriages are “made” or “broken” in the first year. Patterns set in that year get followed in the years to come.

## **24:7 Verse 7 tells us how to rid society of kidnappers. See Exodus 21:16.**

## **24:12-22 Verses 12 to 22 tell us how we are to treat “outsiders” or the less fortunate. What are we told?**

**24:12-13** We are never to take advantage of the poor, but rather we are to help them.

**24:14-15** In those days’ wages were to be paid daily. The poor needed their money as soon as possible.

**24:17-18** The same rules of justice apply to everyone: no exceptions.

**24:19-22** Crops were not to be entirely harvested so that the poor could go into the fields to get food to eat.

## **What do we learn about our responsibility to God in verses 13 and 15?**

- God will bless us when we are kind to the poor. **See Proverbs 19:17**. It is a sin to take advantage of someone.

## **24:16 What do we learn from verse 16?**

- Each of us is responsible for our own behavior. We are not responsible for the behavior of others. **See Ezekiel 18:20**. [20 The person who sins is the one who will die. The child will not be punished for the parent’s sins, and the parent will not be punished for the child’s sins. Righteous people will be rewarded for their own righteous behavior, and wicked people will be punished for their own wickedness.] **NLT**

## **25:1-3 In chapter 25 verses 1 to 3 we learn about how crimes that did not deserve execution were punished. What does it say?**

- We are not told what the crimes are here, only that a wicked person has wronged another person and deserves punishment. The punishment was **39 lashes** with a whip, never more. **40** or more were considered to be degrading.

## **Can anyone think of an instance where someone in Scripture received 39 lashes?**

- **See 2 Corinthians 11:24**. [24 Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes.] Paul was whipped this way on **5 separate** occasions by the Jews.

## **25:4 What is the principle given in verse 4?**

- The principle here is that workers are to be paid for their work. The ox should be able to eat as he works. See [1 Corinthians 9:9-14](#) and [1 Timothy 5:17-18](#).

**25:5-10 In verses 5 to 10 we are told about the responsibility of men to the widows of their brothers.**

**What do we learn?**

- The situation is a woman who married, her husband died, and she had no son by him. A brother of the deceased was to marry her and give her a son. If he refused to do so, he was disgraced in Israel ([25:7-10](#)).

**Why was it so important for a brother to marry her and to give her a son?**

- Without a husband, she had no livelihood in those days. Without a son, she would have no inheritance of the family's land.

**25:11-12 Verses 11 to 12 tell us that there was a severe penalty for “dirty” fighting.**

**25:13-16 Verses 13 to 16 teach us about doing “what is right”. What does it say?**

- We are always to do what is right. We are never to cheat people. Differing measures was another way someone would take advantage of the less educated, less fortunate, or powerless person.

**25:17-19 In verses 17 to 19 Israel was told that they were to be God’s instrument in punishing Amalek (AMM-uh-leck). God determined to destroy Amalek back in [Exodus 17:8-16](#).**

**26:1-11 In chapter 26 verses 1 to 11 we are told about the offering of “first fruits”. What does it say?**

- They were to bring the first fruits of the land to the Levites (priests) and they were to remember and verbalize what God had done for them.

**What principles do we learn here?**

- We give the first of things (firstborn, first fruits, first earnings, and now first day – Sunday) to the Lord to remind ourselves that He is the source of our blessings ([Deuteronomy 8:17-18](#) & [James 1:17](#)) and to remind us that everything is the Lord's. See [Psalm 24:1](#).

**When people give to the Lord, do you think that they think most about what they are giving up or most about what they have been given?**

- We don't give what is ours to God; we give back to God what He gave to us to give to Him. We give to God according to how He has blessed us. The tithe (1/10th) on a little is less than a tithe on a lot. The more we are able and expected to give, the more blessed we have been. We should not think that we are “better” because we give more, we should think that because we are blessed we BETTER give more. See [Luke 12:48](#). [26:11](#) says that we are to *rejoice* as we give. [2 Corinthians 9:7](#) say that *God loves a cheerful* (literally – “hilarious”) *giver*.

**Do you think that most people spend their time being grateful for what they have or feeling cheated about what they don't have?**

- Probably most are envious and complaining, focusing on what they *don't* have.

**Why do you think that some people are basically grateful and others discontent? Is it determined by how much they have?**

- Contentment is “murdered” by envy (what others have) and entitlement (what I deserve). Third world countries are full of content and happy people who have almost nothing. America is full of people who are ungrateful, unhappy, and demanding more who have far more than they need but not everything they want.

**26:12-15** In **verses 12 to 15** we are told about a tithe they were to give on every **3rd year**. What do **verses 14 and 15** say about what we can expect from God when we financially obey Him?

- We can ask God to bless us when we have fully obeyed Him.

**26:16** What do we learn in **verse 16** about how we are to obey the Lord?

- We are to obey Him *with all of our heart and all of our soul*. We aren’t just to obey Him; we are to *want* to obey Him and to *completely* obey Him. Our obedience ought to be whole-hearted, not begrudgingly. See **1 John 5:3**. [

**26:18-19** What do **verses 18 to 19** tell us about who we are as God’s people?

- We are His people, a treasured possession...so that we might obey Him...so that He might bless us (praise, fame, honor)...so that the world might know Him. See **Psalm 96:3** [3 publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does.] & **Matthew 28:19-20**. [19 therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” **NLT**