

# Numbers 5-7

## October 2, 2011

### Introduction:

Today's chapters do a recording of facts more than they give us good material for discussion. Therefore, we will learn a few lessons from these chapters and borrow some truth to discuss from the book of **Leviticus**.

**5:1-4** In chapter 5 verses 1 to 4 we have instructions concerning those who are deemed “unclean” for periods of time. We will not discuss these specific issues, but you may read (on your own) **Leviticus 15** for a more complete explanation. We *do* learn something from the fact that anyone considered “unclean” was to be removed from the camp until they were “clean”: what do we learn?

- As God's people, we are to live our lives separated from sin. See **2 Corinthians 6:14-18**. In the Festivals that Israel celebrated, they were always to “get the leaven out” because leaven was a symbol of sin. See **1 Corinthians 5:6-8**. The word “holy” means to be set apart, different, having a special purpose. See **1 Peter 1:14-16**.

**5:5-10** In verses 5 to 10 we learn about the principle of restitution. What is restitution and how are they told here to make restitution?

- Restitution is making right a wrong done to another person; it is paying back what is owed. Here we are told that a person was to **add one fifth** to what he returned. If he owed **five oxen**, he was to **return six oxen**. If he **owed \$100**, he was to **return \$120**. If the person whom he owes has died, then he must give the restitution to the priest AND make an offering before the Lord.

**If we have wronged a person sometime in the past, when does it become okay not to right the wrong or to make restitution?**

- This passage teaches us that it is ***never*** okay not to right the wrong. Here it tells how to make restitution even if the person has died and has no living relatives.

**Was restitution a big deal with Jesus?**

- **Yes.** See **Matthew 5:23-24**. [23 “So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, 24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.] **NLT**

**What principle did Jesus teach us in these verses?**

- We cannot be right with God if we are not right with men. See **Matthew 6:14-15** where we see this principle again. [14 “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.] **NLT**

**Can anyone think of a person in the Gospels who made restitution for his wrongs?**

- See **Luke 19:1-10**. [1 Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. 2 There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. 3 He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.” 6 Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. 7 But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled.

- 8 Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!” 9 Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.” NLT

**Zaccheus has not walked an aisle or even prayed a prayer. How do you explain what Jesus says in verse 9?**

- His willingness to **return 4 times** whatever he had wrongly taken from anyone was the indicator that he had genuine faith, had repented, and would be following Christ.

**5:11-31 What are we told in verses 11 to 21?**

- If a man suspected that his wife had been unfaithful to him, he would bring her to the priest for a “test”. The woman would drink a certain drink (described here) and if she was guilty she would drink a curse upon herself (5:21-22). We cannot be exactly sure what would happen, but the woman’s reproductive organs would be diseased and it would become obvious to others. If she is found guilty by the disease being in her then she was considered “cursed” and would be executed for her unfaithfulness (Leviticus 20:10). If she was not guilty, then she would not get the disease and as vindicated.

**6:1-21 We learn about the Nazirite vow in chapter 6 verses 1 to 21. Who can tell us the basics of what we learn here?**

- The person making a Nazirite vow was dedicating himself to complete holiness to God. During the time of keeping his vow and dedication, he (1) would not eat or drink anything that came from the grape vine. He also (2) would not cut his hair. He (3) could not go near a dead person even if it was one of his parents (the dead were “unclean”). The chapter then explains what he would do if he accidentally was near a dead person or when he concluded his vow.

**Do we know of any Nazirites in Scripture?**

- Samson (Judges 13-16) was a Nazirite from birth. God gave to him amazing physical strength as long as he lived up to the vow. When he revealed the secret of his strength to Delilah, she cut his hair and he lost God’s blessing. John the Baptist was apparently a Nazirite from birth. See Luke 1:5-17.

**6:22-27 In verses 22 to 27 we have a beautiful benediction that some of you may have heard recited at the end of a church service at some time in your lives.**

**6:24 What do you think it means for God to “bless” you?**

- God’s blessing in our lives is when we benefit from His love and goodness. It can be financial, but it is not primarily financial. See Luke 12:15. He blesses by giving us life, health, family, friends, work, etc.

**6:24 What do you think it means for God to “keep” you?**

- See 1 Peter 1:3-5 – we are “kept” by the power of God. See John 10:27-29.

**6:25 What do you think it means to have God’s face “shine upon us”?**

- To have His face shine upon us is to know that He is present and with us. We won’t turn there, but in the Psalm 80 the people are in dilemma **three times**. Each time the Psalmist says this: “Cause Your face to shine upon us and we will be saved.” See Hebrews 13:5. [s Don’t love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, “I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.”] NLT

**6:25 What do you think it means for God to be “gracious” to us?**

- Grace is getting what we don't earn or deserve. Grace is a holy God's goodness poured out upon sinners. Grace is getting good that we don't deserve, not getting the bad that we *do* deserve, and getting more good than we deserve.

**6:26 For God to “lift up His countenance” upon us is the same as to shine His face upon us. Why is this idea repeated here?**

- We need to understand that what we need most is the assurance of God's presence in our lives. We need His “face”. What we tend to want and seek is God's “hand”: give us something, do something for us. When we know that the Father really is with us, we can face anything in this life, including death, because we know that we will ultimately be okay and with Him in heaven.

**6:26 What does “peace” look like in a person's life? What are some other words that would describe peace?**

- Peace is first of all an inner character quality. If we are not at peace with ourselves, then we likely will not be at peace with others. Peace is not the absence of external conflict: we can't make others be at peace with us. **See Romans 12: 18.** Peace is having God's inner calm even when others around you rage. Peace requires contentment with who we are, what we do, and what we have. Being at peace enables us to forgive those who hurt us and to love our enemies. Peace gives us joy in unpleasant circumstances.

**Do you think that most people are at peace within themselves? Why or why not?**

See what you get.

- **No!** [Often parties are so committed to a single position (what they say they want) that they fail to consider why they are holding that position, and whether it really is likely to achieve their interests (what they really want).]

**7:1-89 Chapter 7 is a listing of the extravagant offerings that the tribes brought to the Tabernacle. In our day, very few people think about giving extravagantly to the Lord. A good example of this is found in the New Testament in Matthew 26:6-13.** [6 Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy. 7 While he was eating, a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it over his head. 8 The disciples were indignant when they saw this. “What a waste of money,” they said. 9 “It could have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor.” 10 But Jesus, aware of this, replied, “Why criticize this woman for doing such a good thing to me? 11 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me. 12 She has poured this perfume on me to prepare my body for burial. 13 I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed.”] [NLT](#)