

Show Others Godly Grace

Leviticus 25
May 30, 2010

How was God going to feed 2 million people in the desert? According to the Quartermaster General in the Army, Moses would have to have 1,500 tons of food each day. That would be two freight trains each a mile long to bring it all in! Besides you must remember, they were out in the desert, and they would have to have firewood to use in cooking the food. This would take 4,000 tons of wood and a few more freight trains, each a mile long, just for one day and this would be for 40 years of traveling. They would also have to have water. If they only had enough to drink and wash a few pots, it would take 11 million gallons each day, and a freight train with tank cars 1,800 miles long, just to bring water! And before they started they had to cross the Red Sea in one night. If they went on a narrow path, double file, the line would be 800 miles long and would require 35 days and nights to get through. So, there had to be a space in the Red Sea, 3 miles wide so that they could walk 5,000 abreast to get over in one night. But then another miracle: Each time they camped at the end of the day, a campground two-thirds the size of the state of Rhode Island was required, or a total of 750 square miles. Think of it! This much space just for nightly camping. Do you think Moses figured all this out before he left Egypt? I don't think so! Moses believed in God. God took care of these things for him. God in Leviticus 25 is telling his people how they are to treat their neighbors and how He wants them to trust Him for their care in the Land.

I. Share Freedom! Lev. 25:10-12

The most certain test by which we judge whether a country is really free is the amount of the security enjoyed by minorities. —Lord Acton, The History of Freedom in Antiquity

The Year of Jubilee (vs. 8-12)

It began on the Day of Atonement: That day was a day of national repentance and the offering for the national sin was offered on the altar and the blood was taken into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled upon the Ark of the Covenant. Sins were forgiven. The only basis of true freedom is what was represented by that great sacrifice: Jesus death at the cross.

It was **announced by the sounding of the trumpet:** a new beginning – hence its name comes from the Hebrew word for Ram i.e. ram's horn and translated jubilee

It was to occur every 50th year

1. This was the year following **the 7th Sabbatical year**. In other words after 7 x 7 they were to give to God and themselves the Year of Jubilee.
2. This should bring up to your ears a little bell of recognition. When Peter asked how many times he should forgive his brother, he was thinking that one Sabbath week was sufficient (7 times). After all, Israel in its entire history never did that much. Jesus in giving Peter the answer said that 7 times wasn't sufficient. 7 times 7 still wasn't sufficient. That meant that even the Year of Jubilee isn't enough. It is 70 times 7. That would be 490 which was the number of years that Israel was in the land and they never celebrated the years of jubilee. Jesus was saying in effect that forgiveness for Peter and all of us is not measured by numbers that fall into the span of our lives but is something that will go with us into eternity.

It was a year of double miracles

1. Double your coupon values! I remember working a Pep Boys auto parts more than 32 years ago. Back then we honored the coupons that any other store offered on any part or service. But, the coupons that really got my attention were the ones my mother had collected and redeemed at grocery stores on the double your coupon value days. Now that was a deal! The greatest opportunity a nation has ever had was offered by God in the Year of Jubilee. It was a double Sabbath rest
2. Double the years: 2 in a row
3. Double Double the blessing: all debt canceled, all slaves freed, all property reverted back and in return God protected the land and gave them bumper crops.

It was the ultimate year of liberty

1. There is something you can call **Destination Depression**. It is when a person gets everything they have wanted and they no longer want it. It is like drinking to your full and you are still thirsty. It is what drives a wealthy person to shoplift. It is what causes movie stars to go off into the most bizarre behaviors.
2. **Liberty**: the ability to do what is right no matter what is wrong.
3. **Liberty is also** being able to walk forward with all debts cleared – i.e. **without carrying the bitterness** of the past.

II. Exhibit Fairness! Lev. 25:13-17 Make Room for God

Jubilee's return of the property (13-17)

1. The land returned to its ancestral owners
2. The this return was based on God's ownership... and that we are only stewards of His property
3. Joel 2:25 ***"So I will restore to you the years qthat the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you."***

III. Manage Blessings! Lev. 25:18-22

Prayer at Harvest We thank Thee, God, again for crops ingathered; For autumn that fulfilled the green spring's vow And gave us lavishly of Thy rich bounty; Thou hast not left the earth—again we bow Our hearts in gratitude for sun on meadows, And wind in trees, and rain tossed down the night; For kindness and friends who have not failed us, For open fires, love, laughter, morning light. We thank Thee, God, for that deep faith implanted Within our hearts that sometime stress will end; That when the time of tribulation ceases, Thy gracious hand outstretched again, will send The manna and the guiding posts to lead us: The flame by night, the deep clouds for the day. We thank Thee—through the sorrows that beset us, We still may know that Thou hast planned our way. We bring Thee gratitude as once our fathers, New-settled on a barren, lonely shore, Sang psalms to Thee, because a quest was finished— Their praise becomes our song forevermore. Now in the time when summer seas are faded, When red and gold burn dry the autumn leaves, When harvest through Thy grace has been accorded, Dear God, we, too, come bringing in our sheaves! —*Helen Welshimer*
See: Psalms 100:4; 116:12; 136

IV. Extend Kindness! Lev. 25:35-38

While Lincoln was a poor young lawyer in Springfield, he was going to his office one morning when he saw a little girl crying at the door of one of the houses. Lincoln stopped to see what was the matter. She sobbed out her story. She was going to visit a little friend of hers in another town. It was to be her first ride on the train, and the expressman had not come for the trunk.

Mr. Lincoln lifted the trunk onto his shoulders and started off, calling to the little girl to "come along." They just caught the train. No wonder the little girl never forgot him! A great, brave, noble man he was--never too busy to be kind.

Mr. Jacob A. Riis, whom President Roosevelt once declared to be the most useful citizen in New York City, tells an interesting story concerning his work among the poor in New York. A while ago he went to visit a friend in a suburban town. On the evening of his arrival, as they sat at his table, the host looked around at his flock of five healthy children and said: "I wish you could find for me in the city some poor family--if possible, a widow with children about the age of these--who would be ours to work and advise with and to help over the rough places when they came along. Then each of mine could have his own friend, and he could get more out of it than he would give, I know. Here they are shut off, as you see, from that. All the neighbors are well-to-do." Mr. Riis promised to try, for he knew the man was right. They were sadly handicapped. The best in them was being starved by the ultra-respectability of their surroundings. So one day he found in a tenement-house on the East Side a brave little woman who was making a noble fight to keep her flock together. The oldest boy was about old enough to go into an office, and his face fairly shone with delight at the prospect that he was soon to "help mamma." She was a custodian, she told Mr. Riis, and worked in a public building a couple of miles away, on the west side of town. Mr. Riis started for his office to telephone to his friend that he had found what he wanted. On the way it struck him that he had forgotten to ask where the widow scrubbed and he went back to find out. "Once or twice," says Mr. Riis, "in my life it has been given to me to see, as it were, the veil rent asunder and the hand of the Almighty working in my sight. This was one of those times. I shall not soon get over the thrill that went through me when I learned that she worked in the Mission Building, at my friend's very door. Just the thickness of it, two inches of wood, separated the two, each in need of the other, and asking vainly, as the years went by, 'Where is the neighbor who will give me a hand?'"