

Ex. 23:1-9

The 9th Word and Ordinary Life

The 9th Word (And You Shall Not Bear False Witness Against Your Neighbor), Part 2

Sermon Notes for September 25, 2011 by Pastor Dennis R. Tuuri

Intro - Review (Pastor's Middle Name) - Pray!

1 Samuel 7:6B-15 (NKJV)

A. 6B And **Samuel judged the children of Israel** at Mizpah.

B. 7 Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the **Philistines went up against Israel**.

C. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were **afraid of the Philistines**.

D. 8 So the children of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the **Philistines**."

E. 9 And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole **burnt offering** to the LORD.

F. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD for ***Israel***, and the LORD answered him.

E'. 10 Now as Samuel was offering up the **burnt offering**,

D'. the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel.

C'. 11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah **and pursued the Philistines**, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car. **12** Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."

B'. 13 So the **Philistines were subdued**, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. **14** Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines. Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

A'. 15 And **Samuel judged Israel** all the days of his life. **16** He went from year to year on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and **Mizpah**, and judged Israel in all those places.

Today's Text - Exodus 23:1-9 (NKJV)

A. 1 "You shall not circulate a false [empty] report.

B. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an **unrighteous witness**.

C. 2 You shall not follow a crowd to do evil;

D. nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice.

E. 3 You shall not show partiality to a **poor** man in his dispute.

F. 4 If you meet **your enemy's** ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again. **5** If you see the donkey of **one who hates you** lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it.

E'. 6 You shall not pervert the judgment of your **poor** in his dispute.

D'. 7 Keep yourself far from a false matter;

C'. do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked.

B'. 8 And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning and **perverts the words of the righteous**.

A'. 9 Also you shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the heart of a stranger, because you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Structural Comments and Applications from Today's Text

1. Witnesses (vv. 1-5); Judges (vv. 6-9)

A. Witnesses

1.) The Tongue as Community Destroyer - James 3:2; Pr. 6:16-19
The Pillow Feathers

2.) The Heresy of Democracy (Rule by The Majority)

3.) The Tendency of the Commoner To Favor the Poor

4.) The Hands as Community Builder (Realistic Law)

5.) The Hands as Heart Changer - Outside In!

6.) Of Ox and Men - Gal. 5:10

B. Judges (Applicable to Dads, Moms, Bosses, Elders, Etc.)

1.) The Tendency of Judges to Favor the Rich

2.) The Need to Filter Out Frivolous Cases - The Law of Equivalency

3.) Remember YOUR Judge (Rom. 12:19)

4.) Avoid Bribery (and the Suborning of Perjury) Like the Plague
Dt. 16:19; Ps. 26:10; Pr. 17:23; 1 Sam. 12:3,4; 8:3; Dt. 10:17

5.) The Tendency of Judges (and Mobs!) to Favor the Locals

2. Love at the Center, Grace at the End (Leading to Sabbath Laws)

A. Your Enemy (Matt. 5:43-48)

B. The One Who **Hates** You - Rom. 14:19; 12:18

C. You Were These - Rom. 5:8-10

Conclusion - The Warfare State