

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