Lesson 30

4/21/19

Vows

The goal for this lesson is to understand the importance of making a lifelong commitment to God.

1) In your own words, what is a vow to God?

2) Generally speaking, the two types of vows involve the promise to offer something to God or the promise to abstain from something. Use the following examples to explain each type. Genesis 28:18-22; Psalm 132:1-5

3) Consider the following examples of vows. What patterns do you notice?

**Numbers 21:2** -> Israel vowed to destroy the Canaanites if God would give them into their hand

**Judges 11:30-31** -> Jephthah vowed to offer his daughter to God if He would deliver the Ammonites to him

**I Samuel 14:24** -> During battle, Saul laid an oath on the people that they shouldn’t eat until he was avenged

**Jonah 1:15-16** -> After they threw Jonah overboard & God calmed the sea, the men on the boat vowed

**Jonah 2:9** -> Jonah prayed while in the fish, “what I have vowed I will pay”

**Acts 23:12** -> The Jews bound themselves by an oath not to eat or drink until they killed Paul

**Acts 21:23-24** -> Paul was to take four men who were under a vow, purify them along with himself, & pay their expenses so they may shave their head – signifying that their vow had been completed. This would show that Paul lived in “observance of the law”.

4) Consider Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 & Deuteronomy 23:21-23. What principles are given regarding vows?

5) What were the three main conditions of the Nazirite vow? Numbers 6:1-21

**Judges 13:1-7** -> An angel of the Lord tells Samson’s parents that he will be born a “Nazirite to God”.

While not specifically referred to as a Nazirite, the following men may have also taken the Nazirite vow.

**Luke 1:15, 7:33** -> John the Baptist was not to drink any wine or strong drink

**I Samuel 1:11** -> Hannah vowed to give her son (Samuel) to God & vowed that no razor would touch his head

**Acts 18:18** -> We’re told that Paul “had cut his hair, for he was under a vow”

6) Vows were to be taken seriously, but there were processes in place where the person or thing that was vowed could be bought back (redeemed). What penalty was applied to the redeemed person or thing in order to reinforce the seriousness of making the vow? Leviticus 27 (especially verse 13, 15, 19, 27, 31)

7) What responsibility was placed on fathers & husbands with regard to the vows of young ladies? How could a father or husband help when a young lady made a vow? Numbers 30:1-15

8) For each of the following passages, explain what we can offer to God & explain what promises He has made to us. I John 1:9; I Corinthians 15:56-58; Ephesians 2:8-10; Revelation 2:10

9) Consider Luke 9:57-62 & explain Jesus’ statement in Luke 9:62. How can you apply this to your life?