

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

Feb. 25, 2016

- Leviticus 17:1-19:37 – Killing animals in Tabernacle (17); sexual relations (18); holiness (19)
- John 9:13-34 – Concurrence of light or darkness for the soul.
- Song of Solomon 7:11-13 – “There will I give you my love”

Commentary:

Leviticus 17:1-19:37. After the various regulations, chapter 19 provides the underlying motivation for holiness: “Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.” “Holy” means “set apart.” This is the norm for every believer. In fact, it is our *telos*, it is in our nature as our final and ultimate good. Every believer, regardless of the dispensation in which he lives, is to totally set apart his life in every respect to the Lord. To live a life set apart to God radically changes the life in that the believer sees family, church, education, work, and all of life in the context of moving closer to God *by knowledge and by love*. In Lev. 17-19 human morality is tied to the Lord. Note in 19:3-4 the mandates to honor parents, this shows that holiness begins in the home. A child is to learn to respect/fear his mother, father, and God and to flee from the idols of this world. Note the attitude in the command “love your neighbor as yourself,” which is repeated several times in the New Testament. As we have been studying, love is the root, hinge, fruit, and form of all virtue which means that every unloving act actually destroys virtue—take a look at the list of virtues in 1 Corinthians 13 that can be lost simply by not loving. Note the emphasis on love in providing equal justice in the courts of the law for the poor and great (19:15-18). Note love as a cure for racism as per 19:34. What but love could really overcome racist attitudes? In other words, are not bad attitudes toward anyone because they are of a different race exactly what love is not?

**The foreigner residing
among you must be treated
as your native-born.**

*Love them as yourself,
for you were foreigners in
Egypt.*

**I am the
LORD your God.**

Leviticus 19:34

Song of Solomon 7:11-13. The use of pastoral imagery for the setting and pleasures of lovemaking are well-established in the Song by now and need not surprise us. She is now inviting *him* away for love. In her surrender of her virginity to him, she has become liberated in love so that she now aggressively speaks of love and calls him to herself. She clarifies the main point of her words in **v. 12**, “There I will give you my love.” Three items in **v. 13** call for special notice. The first is the mandrake, a vegetable that from antiquity has been regarded as an aphrodisiac (Gen 30:14–16). This would not be lost on the ancient audience. Second, the picture of the doors being garlanded with every delicacy of the garden is striking. Previously the door was both barrier and way of access, and the opening of the door was fraught with tension and danger (especially for the woman). Now the doors are hung with delicacies, and all the previous tensions have disappeared. Third, the woman speaks of “new and old” treasures she has for the man. This would imply that as they grow in love they will both repeat sensual pleasures and find new ones as well.



On the Glory Road,

Pastor Don