

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

Feb. 8, 2016

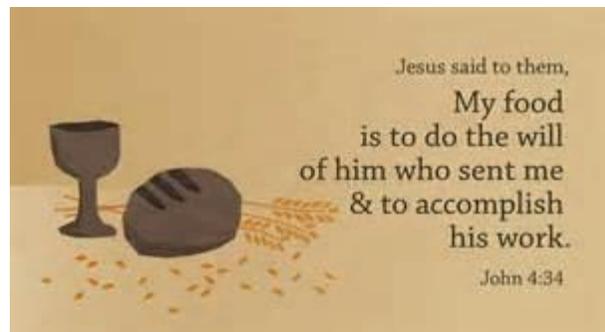
- Exodus 19-20 – Israelites arrive at Mt. Sinai; the Ten Commandments.
- John 4:27-42 – Samaritan woman spreads the Gospel.
- Song of Solomon 2:14-17 – Lovers need to work through their problems.

Reflections:

1. Exodus 19-20. Three months after the Exodus, the Israelites have now arrived at Mt. Sinai. God compares His deliverance of them to eagles who fly with their wings spread open to catch young eagles learning to fly (19:4). Note the privileges they have among all of the nations and people of the world in verses 5-6. The “Ten Words” (literal translation), the hub of all of Israel’s religious and civil laws, has two parts. The first four commandments pertain to the relationship of the Israelites with God, and the other six deal with social relationships within the covenant community. Before giving these 10 stipulations, God in the preamble spoke of His unique relationship with His people (I am the Lord your God, 20:2), and in the historical prologue He briefly summarized what He had done for them “brought you out of Egypt ... the land of slavery.” The Ten Commandments are an excellent summary of 10 divine rules for human conduct. They might be called rules of (1) devotion, (2) worship, (3) reverence, (4) time, (5) authority, (6) life, (7) purity, (8) property, (9) tongue, and (10) contentment.



2. John 4:27-42. As the disciples spoke with Jesus, they sensed something had happened. Before, He was tired and thirsty. But now food and drink were not important to Him. His mood had changed. They offered Him food, but He said, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about” and that His food was to do the will of Him who sent Me. This does not mean Jesus had no need of physical food, but rather that His great passion and desire was to do God’s will (cf. 5:30; 8:29). He knows that man does not live by bread alone, but “by



every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord” (Deut. 8:3). His priority is spiritual, not material. It is the Father’s work which must be done (cf. John 17:4). There can be no true spiritual victory without the spiritual appetite for God and His will being greater and more important than sense appetites. We see this issue in the Garden of Eden as well as Paul’s statement in 1 Cor. 9:24-27 and John’s in 1 John 2:14-15. Growing the spiritual appetite for God and the things of God only takes place by God supernaturally infusing supernatural virtue as the believer seeks them. God’s bestowments are always in accordance with a person’s nature. God does not bestow supernatural love in a person on a first order level unless that person has a true desire for it on a 2nd order level. In the example of sense appetites of food, one cannot expect to engage in bad eating habits and then expect God to automatically give that person temperance. What we do habituates our character and desires, which then sets certain limits on what we think and desire. No one is free to operate apart from the character they develop daily. In short, actions determine character from which come actions which determine character, and so on. In getting back to our text, note how the woman shared the gospel and how Samaritans were saved. This little “Samaritan revival” is notable in light of the broad theme of natural rejection by Israel (cf., John 1:11)—for the Samaritans were despised by the Jews and thought to be beneath their dignity.

3. Song of Solomon 2:14-17. Foxes were noted for their destructive tendencies in crop fields, so her reference to those animals probably suggested metaphorically some problems in their relationship. The beloved was asking her lover to take the initiative in solving the problems that were potentially harmful to their relationship. The foxes represent as



many obstacles or temptations as have plagued lovers throughout the centuries. Perhaps it is the fox of misunderstanding, mistrust and jealousy which breaks the bond of love. Or it may be the fox of selfishness and pride which refuses to let one acknowledge his fault to another. Or it may be an unforgiving spirit which will not accept the apology of the other. These foxes have been ruining vineyards of lovers since the beginning of time. All couples have problems, even the most ideal courtship or marriage. They are all potentially very destructive. To ignore them is only to damage the relationship even more.

On the Glory Road,

Pastor Don