

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

March 5, 2016

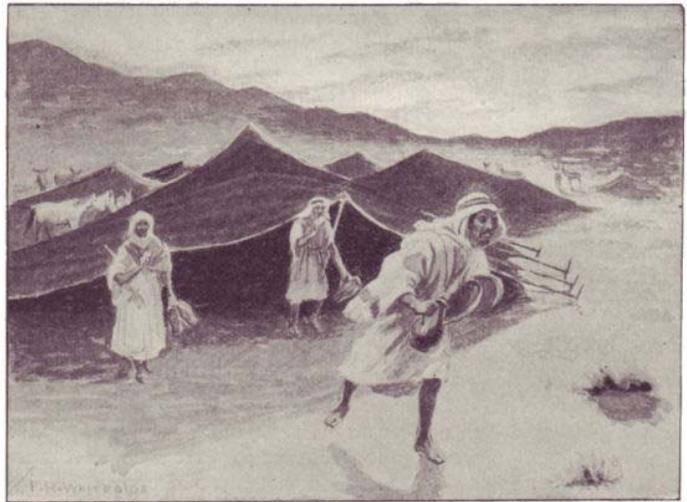
- ✓ Numbers 5:11-31– Sanitation and moral laws.
- ✓ John 13:11-20 – Jesus’s example of humility and forgiveness.
- ✓ Psalm 6:6-10 – Confidence in prayer.

COMMENTARY:

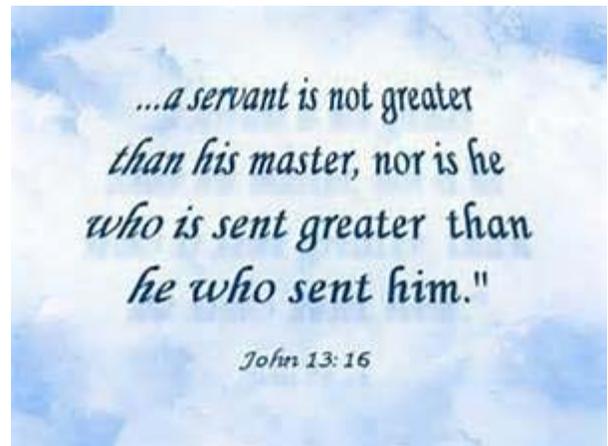
Numbers 5:11-31. Some of the Old Testament laws seem so strange that they are difficult to even understand. We can see, in a day before modern medicine, God quarantining people with “a rash . . . a fluid discharge, and everyone . . . [who had touched] a corpse” for a period of time to prevent infection as we see in Numbers 5:2. In modern times, if good sanitation practices along with quarantine of infectious

individuals were observed in regions of Liberia there would not have been such horrific devastation of people from the Ebola virus. Experts tell us that the Ebola virus is very fragile and fears cleanliness, and good and proper sanitation. The first thing that health experts did in Liberia was to clean up the region from the exposed garbage and human waste. God protected the Israelites by mandating good hygienic and medical practices of quarantine.

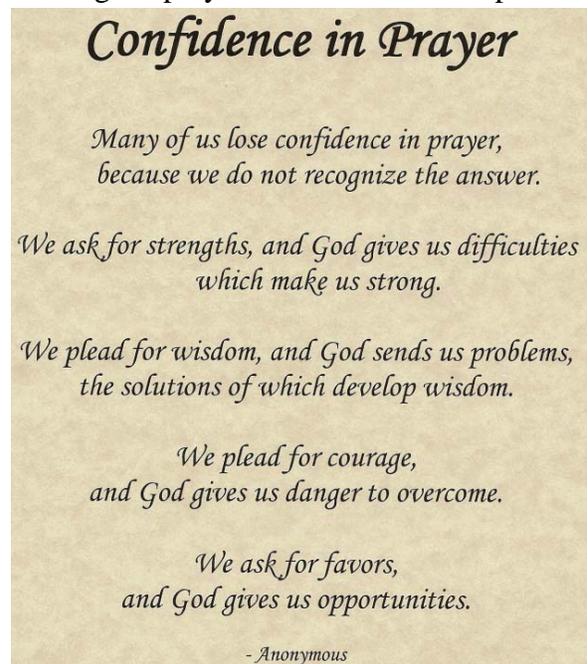
This is easy to see. What is more difficult to understand for many moderns is why God would severely punish people because of sins that are not so explicitly said to be related to “medical issues” in Numbers 5:5-31. However, it is because God understands that a culture that allows immoral activity will collapse into a culture that promotes such behavior as per Romans 1:24-32. Moreover, such an immoral culture will not only damage people psychologically, it will bring new health hazards as we have seen with AIDS, which started exclusively in this country in male homosexuals.



John 13:11-20. In verses 15-16 the foot-washing is said to be an “example.” So, I think we need to be serious believers and follow the Lord and institute foot-washing at FBC. Not really! But why not? After all, many groups throughout church history have practiced literal foot-washing as a church ordinance. However, in our modern culture, we do not have the need of washing dust from the feet of each other. The important thing is the inner humility, not the physical “rite.” The point is that we are to follow Jesus in humility and avoid pride at any cost, even the cost of being considered as worthy of less esteem than we think we deserve. Not to follow Jesus in forgiving others and living in humility is to violate the principle that no servant is greater than his master. The blessing in verse 17 that Jesus promises is to a humble and obedient heart, not because mere physical acts (that may contain pride). We all have far too much pride. The greatest thing we can do for others and ourselves is to so orient to the grace of God that pride has no place to take root or grow. God offers us Himself and when we accept Him and His Word, we accept His grace. To reject the Word of God is to reject the grace that is required for any spiritual growth or virtue.



Psalms 6:6-10. Note David’s confidence in God answering his prayers in verse 9. It is important for every believer to have confidence in his prayers, but this is only truly possible if one has confidence in God and what His Word says about prayer. I would add that prayer does not end with “Amen.” “Amen” means “I believe it” and it is actually the start of pursuing the prayer, knowing that God will answer one way or another. Moreover, prayer is the most intense second person relationship one can have with God, which is why the Bible teaches that prayer actually edifies the believer: Jude 1:20 *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.*



In, by, with, through, and for *Esse*,

Pastor Don