

## **Deuteronomy 19 – The Law of Witnesses**

### **Day 1: The Standard of Absolute Truth**

#### **Scripture Reading**

Deuteronomy 19:15 (NKJV)

"One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established."

#### **Devotional Reading**

In God's order, in God's way, justice is always a matter of absolute truth. When we look at the law concerning witnesses in Deuteronomy 19, we are looking directly at an application of the Ninth Commandment—"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." But we must understand that this law is also tied directly to the Sixth Commandment against murder.

What do we mean by this? We mean that false witnesses can and do kill. If someone tells a lie in a court of law, an innocent person could be put to death. A false word has the power to destroy a man's life, his livelihood, and his family. Therefore, God requires that no one be convicted of a crime on the testimony of just one person. It is too easy for one man to lie out of spite. At the mouth of two or three witnesses, the matter must be established.

This is the standard of God's perfect justice. It protects the innocent and ensures that guilt is proven beyond a reasonable doubt. We serve a God of truth, and He demands that His people deal in the truth. When we lie, we align ourselves with the father of lies. But when we insist on the truth, we reflect the holy character of our God.

#### **Family Prayer**

Our Father, thank You for Thy good and holy law that teaches us the path of truth. Lord God, we ask that You will convict us of our own sin and show us where we have been careless with the truth. Give us a deep love for justice and a holy fear of bearing false witness against our neighbor. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Day 2: The Danger of the Talebearer**

#### **Scripture Reading**

Proverbs 18:17 (NKJV)

"The first one to plead his cause seems right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him."

#### **Devotional Reading**

We must apply God's standard of evidence to our personal lives and our families. We must be very careful what we believe and what we repeat. Proverbs 14:15 tells us that the simple believe every word, but the prudent man looks well to his going. Just because someone tells you a bad report about someone else does not mean it is true.

The Bible warns us frequently about talebearers. These are people who love to spread rumors to injure the character of others. They traffic in half-truths and assumptions. We live in a culture that loves to rush to judgment. A single accusation is made, and immediately the mob condemns the accused. But the Christian is called to a higher standard. We must not be a people who believe the first story we hear.

When you hear a scandalous report about another person, what is your first reaction? Do you eagerly pass it along, or do you wait for the matter to be established? We must guard our ears just as closely as we guard our lips. To entertain a false report is to participate in the sin of the talebearer. Let us be men and women who demand the truth before we pass judgment.

### **Family Prayer**

Lord, we confess that it is often too easy to believe the worst about others. Forgive us for the times we have listened to talebearers or spread rumors ourselves. Set a guard over our mouths, O God, and keep watch over the door of our lips. Teach us to be patient, to seek the truth, and to protect the reputations of others. Amen.

### **Day 3: Justice in the House of God**

#### **Scripture Reading**

Matthew 18:15-16 (NKJV)

"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'"

#### **Devotional Reading**

The principle of multiple witnesses does not stop at the ancient courthouse doors. Jesus and the Apostle Paul applied this exact same standard directly to the New Testament church. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth, and therefore its dealings must be governed by truth.

When there is sin in the camp, it must be dealt with. But Christ commands that it be dealt with justly. We are not to receive an accusation against an elder, or anyone else in the body

of Christ, unless it is firmly established by two or three witnesses. We do not govern the church by hearsay. If authority came from man, we might bend the rules to suit our feelings. But God placed this order in His church to protect His flock from malicious attacks and false accusations.

This is a profound protection for the local church. It prevents division and schism from taking root through quiet whispers and backroom gossip. It forces the truth into the light. When we handle conflict in God's way, we preserve the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.

### **Family Prayer**

Father, we lift up our local church to You today. We pray for our pastors and elders, that You would protect them from the snare of the enemy and from false accusations. Help us to conduct ourselves with integrity within the body of Christ. Give us the courage to handle our offenses biblically, bringing them into the light rather than whispering in the dark. Amen.

### **Day 4: Violence of the Lip**

#### **Scripture Reading**

Exodus 20:16 (NKJV)

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

#### **Devotional Reading**

The law of the witness applies directly to the home. Children and young people, listen carefully. When your parents convene your family court to find out who broke the rules, do not bear false witness. You might want to blame your brother because you are upset with him, or you might want to tell a lie so you do not get in trouble.

That is a wicked act. It is a form of violence. It is violence of the lip. You are treating your sibling violently with your words when you lie about them. You are attempting to bring punishment upon them to save yourself. This is the exact opposite of the gospel of Jesus Christ, where the innocent willingly took the punishment for the guilty.

We must cultivate homes where the truth is spoken, even when it costs us something. It is far better to confess your wrong and face the discipline of a loving parent than to harden your heart and lie. A home built on lies will crumble, but a home established in truth will stand.

### **Family Prayer**

Lord God, we pray for our own home today. We ask that You would root out all deceit, all lying, and all false witnessing from our family. When we sin, give us the grace to confess it quickly rather than covering it up. May our home be a place where truth is spoken in love, and where Your word is honored above all else. Amen.

## **Day 5: Vengeance Belongs to the Lord**

### **Scripture Reading**

Deuteronomy 19:18-19 (NKJV)

"And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you."

### **Devotional Reading**

The law of God is harsh on the wicked, but it is merciful to the just. If a man was found to be a false witness in Israel, he received the exact punishment he had planned to bring upon his neighbor. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. This standard was given to the civil judges to ensure the punishment fit the crime exactly—no more, and no less.

But we must understand how to apply this today. As Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, this law is not a license for us to take personal revenge when someone hurts us. The civil magistrate bears the sword to punish evildoers, but as individuals, we are called to a different posture. When we are falsely accused, we are not to strike back in bitter vengeance.

Instead, we are called to walk in the Spirit, to love our neighbor, and to trust that vengeance belongs to the Lord. He is the perfect Judge. He sees every lie, every hidden motive, and every false word. We can rest in His perfect justice. And as we remember our own guilt before a holy God, we must flee to Christ, who endured the ultimate false accusation on our behalf so that we might go free.

### **Family Prayer**

Our Father, we thank You for Your perfect justice, which will right every wrong in the end. We thank You even more for Your mercy. Lord, when we are wronged or falsely accused, keep us from the bitter desire for personal revenge. Help us to entrust ourselves to Him who judges righteously. We bless Your name for the cross of Christ, where our sins were judged so we could be forgiven. In Jesus' name, Amen.