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Do not spread rumors along with others, and do not join hands with wicked people to testify falsely:

Exodus 23:1

"Don't spread rumors with others; don't join hands with wicked people to bear false witness."

Psalms 34:13

"Restrain evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it with all your heart."

Proverbs 6:16-19

"There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to his heart: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises evil schemes, feet that are quick to run to evil, a man who utters lies False witnesses and sow dissension among brethren."

James 1:26

"He who thinks he is religious, but does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is vanity."

Do not join hands with the wicked to bear false witness:

Psalms 26:4-5

"I have not sat with liars, nor with deceivers; I hate the congregation of the weak, and I will not sit with the wicked."

Proverbs 24:28-29

"You shall not bear witness against your neighbor without cause, nor shall you deceive with your mouth. Say not, 'I will treat him as he has done to me, and I will avenge him as he has done.'",

1 Peter 3:9-11

“Do not repay evil with evil, or insult with insult; but bless, for to this you were called, that you may inherit a blessing. ‘If anyone loves life and wants good things, let him keep his tongue from evil, and his lips Speak not deceitfully, but turn from evil and do good; seek peace and follow it with all your heart.’”

These scriptures all remind us to guard our tongues in our daily life, not to spread rumors, and not to collude with evil people, but to act and behave with truth and love.

Together let us pray:

Dear Father God

In this turbulent world, we come before you, humbly asking for your protection and guidance.

Please guard our tongue and not spread rumors with others. Help us to understand that words are extremely powerful and can bring goodness and peace as well as hurt and pain. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit to reflect before we speak, to ensure that our words are true, upright, and conducive to the growth and well-being of others.

Please protect our hearts and prevent us from joining hands with the wicked to bear false witness. Please grant us the ability to distinguish between right and wrong, so that we can stay away from evil things and stay away from evil. Please fill our hearts with Your love and forgiveness, so that we can treat everyone with compassion and kindness, even those we think are evil, and help us to see their inner needs and struggles instead of acting rashly. witness.

Please grant us wisdom and firm will so that we will not follow others to spread rumors. May we always be truthful and honest in our words and deeds, and refrain from spreading false news and worrisome lies. Help us to tell right from wrong and use words to spread peace, kindness and justice.

Please protect us from joining forces with evil people. In our relationships, please give us the keen insight to recognize those who seek to hurt others and spread ill will. May we keep our distance from them, from taking part in their evil deeds, from any conspiracy against others.

Please guide us so that we do not bear false witness. In the face of misunderstanding, slander and wrong, please give us enough courage and wisdom. May we not easily bear false witnesses and frame the innocent, but insist on justice and truth and become true witnesses.

May you watch over us so that we can stay on the right path, stay away from evil, and be true messengers of light in this challenging world, leading those around us to peace, true love and harmony.

We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Exodus Chapter 23

Ex. 23:1 “Do not spread false reports. Do not help a wicked man by being a malicious witness.

Ex. 23:2 “Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd,

Ex. 23:3 and do not show favouritism to a poor man in his lawsuit.

Ex. 23:4 “If you come across your enemy’s ox or donkey wandering off, be sure to take it back to him.

Ex. 23:5 If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; be sure you help him with it.

Ex. 23:6 “Do not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits.

Ex. 23:7 Have nothing to do with a false charge and do not put an innocent or honest person to death, for I will not acquit the guilty.

Ex. 23:8 “Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twists the words of the righteous.

Ex. 23:9 “Do not oppress an alien; you yourselves know how it feels to be aliens, because you were aliens in Egypt.

Ex. 23:10 “For six years you are to sow your fields and harvest the crops,

Ex. 23:11 but during the seventh year let the land lie unploughed and unused. Then the poor among your people may get food from it, and the wild animals may eat what they leave. Do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove.

Ex. 23:12 “Six days do your work, but on the seventh day do not work, so that your ox and your donkey may rest and the slave born in your household, and the alien as well, may be refreshed.

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Ex. 23:13 “Be careful to do everything I have said to you. Do not invoke the names of other gods; do not let them be heard on your lips.

Ex. 23:14 “Three times a year you are to celebrate a festival to me.

Ex. 23:15 “Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread; for seven days eat bread made without yeast, as I commanded you. Do this at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in that month you came out of Egypt. “No-one is to appear before me empty-handed.

Ex. 23:16 “Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. “Celebrate the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field.

Ex. 23:17 “Three times a year all the men are to appear before the Sovereign LORD.

Ex. 23:18 “Do not offer the blood of a sacrifice to me along with anything containing yeast. “The fat of my festival offerings

must not be kept until morning.

Ex. 23:19 “Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God. “Do not cook a young goat in its mother’s milk.

Ex. 23:20 “See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared.

Ex. 23:21 Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him.

Ex. 23:22 If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you.

Ex. 23:23 My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out.

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Ex. 23:24 Do not bow down before their gods or worship them or follow their practices. You must demolish them and break their sacred stones to pieces.

Ex. 23:25 Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you,

Ex. 23:26 and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span.

Ex. 23:27 “I will send my terror ahead of you and throw into confusion

every nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run.

Ex. 23:28 I will send the hornet ahead of you to drive the Hivites, Canaanites and Hittites out of your way.

Ex. 23:29 But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you.

Ex. 23:30 Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.

Ex. 23:31 “I will establish your borders from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the desert to the River. I will hand over to you the people who live in the land and you will drive them out before you.

Ex. 23:32 Do not make a covenant with them or with their gods.

Ex. 23:33 Do not let them live in your land, or they will cause you to sin against me, because the worship of their gods will certainly be a snare to you.”

Exodus Chapter 23 continues to outline the laws and regulations that God gave to the Israelites through Moses. This chapter focuses primarily on the social and moral behavior of the Israelites.

God begins by reminding the Israelites that they should not bear false witness against the wicked, nor should they join with the wicked. He also establishes laws concerning the Sabbath and the sabbatical year of rest every seven years, to protect the rights of laborers and the health of the land.

God also establishes three annual festivals: the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering. These festivals are considered

opportunities to give thanks to God and to celebrate His love and provision in various ways.

Additionally, God requires the Israelites to provide assistance to those in need and to maintain a posture of fairness and kindness. They are to respect the name of God, not use it to bear false witness, and obey all of God's commands and laws.

Finally, God reminds the Israelites that they will receive blessings of the land and nation, but they must remain faithful to their covenant with God and continue to obey their regulations. If they remain loyal, God will continue to protect them and bless their land and people.

The key verses Chapter 23 of Exodus in the Bible

Exodus chapter 23 continues to outline laws and commandments that the Israelites were to follow. Here are some key verses from Exodus chapter 23:

1. "You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man to be a malicious witness" (Exodus 23:1): This verse emphasizes the importance of truthfulness and integrity, warning against spreading false rumors or bearing false witness.
2. "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall bring it back to him" (Exodus 23:4): This verse emphasizes the importance of showing kindness and compassion even to one's enemies.
3. "You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in his lawsuit" (Exodus 23:6): This verse emphasizes the importance of ensuring that justice is served for all, regardless of their social or economic status.
4. "Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your servant woman, and the alien, may be refreshed" (Exodus 23:12): This verse emphasizes the importance of observing the Sabbath, both for rest and for allowing others to rest as well.
5. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's" (Exodus 23:17): This verse emphasizes the importance of avoiding jealousy and covetousness, encouraging the Israelites to be content with what they have.

Overall, Exodus chapter 23 provides a set of laws and commandments that emphasize the importance of truthfulness, justice, kindness, and contentment. These laws provide guidance for living in community with one another and for living in accordance with God's will.

Here's a reflection on Exodus chapter 23:

Exodus chapter 23 continues the giving of laws and regulations by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. This chapter focuses on various aspects of social justice, ethical conduct, and worship practices within the Israelite community. The laws provided in this chapter are meant to guide the people in their relationships with one another and with God, promoting righteousness, fairness, and devotion.

One of the central themes in this chapter is the call to pursue justice and fairness. God's laws address issues such as impartiality in judgment, showing kindness to enemies, caring for the poor, and refraining from spreading false reports. These laws emphasize the importance of treating others with equity and integrity, regardless of their social status or circumstances.

The laws also emphasize the importance of Sabbath observance and worship. The Israelites are instructed to set aside a day of rest and to honor the Sabbath as a time of dedication to God. This command highlights the significance of rest, worship, and acknowledging God's sovereignty over all aspects of life.

Another important theme in this chapter is the promise of God's presence and guidance. God assures the Israelites that if they obey His commands and follow His statutes, He will be with them, protect them, and lead them to the Promised Land. This promise serves as a reminder of God's faithfulness and the importance of trusting in His guidance and provision.

Reflecting on Exodus chapter 23, we can draw several lessons for our own lives. Firstly, it reminds us of the importance of pursuing justice and treating others with fairness. We are called to uphold principles of equity, impartiality, and kindness in our interactions with others, regardless of their social standing or circumstances. It challenges us to examine our own biases and prejudices and to strive for a society characterized by justice and compassion.

Secondly, this chapter underscores the significance of Sabbath observance and worship. It reminds us of the importance of setting aside time to rest, reflect, and worship God. In our fast-paced world, taking intentional breaks and dedicating time to honor God allows us to cultivate a deeper relationship with Him and find renewal for our minds, bodies, and souls.

Furthermore, Exodus chapter 23 highlights the assurance of God's presence and guidance when we align ourselves with His will. Just as God promised to be with the Israelites and lead them, He promises to be with us and guide us when we faithfully follow His commands. This encourages us to trust in God's faithfulness and seek His direction in all areas of our lives.

In conclusion, Exodus chapter 23 presents laws and regulations that address justice, fairness, worship, and the assurance of God's presence. It calls us to pursue justice, treat others with equity, honor the Sabbath, and trust in God's guidance. By reflecting on these lessons, we can actively work towards justice, find rest and renewal in God's presence, and experience the blessings of walking in obedience to His commands.