

The Laws of Covenant and Obedience: Studies in Exodus 22 and 23

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References: Exodus 22-23, Exodus 22:18-31; Exodus 23:1-26

Laws of Personal Conduct and Moral Boundaries

All right, so it's Exodus chapter twenty-two. We've studied the Ten Commandments, and now following that are a number of related commandments, basically to make sure that we understand the truth of the set of the ten and that we understand the implications.

我们已经学习了十诫，接下来要学的是一系列与十诫相关的诫命，基本上是为了确保我们理解这十条诫命的真理，并明白其在生活中的应用。

So last week we finished off looking at verse eighteen, chapter twenty-two verse eighteen.

上个星期我们停在出埃及记第二十二章第十八节那里。

It says:

[Exodus 22:18 NKJV]

"You shall not permit a sorceress to live.

这里说：“行邪术的女人不可容她存活。”

A sorceress would be someone, a woman who pretends to know the future. And in the kingdom of the Old Testament, if there was such a woman, she had to be put to death.

行邪术的女人是指那些假装能够预知未来的女人。在旧约的以色列国中，如果发现有这样的女人，必须把她治死。

But you'll remember that there was a woman like that who followed Paul and Silas in Philippi, and Paul and Silas rebuked that woman and told her she was wrong, and actually rebuked the power of the devil in her so that she could no longer practice her evil.

大家都记得，在腓立比的时候，有这样一个行邪术的女人跟着使徒保罗和西拉。保罗和西拉责备了那个女人，指出她的错误，其实是责备了她身上的邪恶势力，使她不能再行那样的邪术。

But it's interesting, they did not kill her. So this law was for the nation. Paul and Silas were not the government, so they didn't kill her. But they certainly did disempower her because they had the authority and exercised the authority to rebuke the devil in her.

但非常有意思的是，他们并没有杀了她。所以这律法是给国家的，当时的保罗和西拉并不代表政府，所以没有杀她。但他们确实废去了她身上的邪术能力，因为他们拥有并运用权柄责备了她里面的魔鬼。

How bad is it to allow a woman like that to carry on her work? The answer: better put her to death, that's how **bad** it is. We live in an age where we tolerate all manner of evil.

容忍这样一个女人继续她的邪恶行径有多坏呢？答案是：严重到应当把她治死。我们生活在一个包容各种邪恶的时代。

Now verse nineteen is a terrible verse as well. It says:

[Exodus 22:19 NKJV]

"Whoever lies with an animal shall surely be put to death.

第十九节也是非常可怕的一节，它说：“凡与兽躺卧的，总要把他治死。”

We live in an age where all manner of moral evil, as I call it, is tolerated. God says, "No, it's wrong, and that should not be." If there's someone like that, that person should be put to death.

我们活在这样一个我称之为万般道德败坏都被宽容的时代。但神说不行，那是错的，绝不应该存在。如果有这样的人，必须要把他治死。

So again, a reminder: there are two levels. One is the governmental level, and the other is the interpersonal level. On a governmental level, we cannot tell the government what to do. We can vote, but we can't tell the government what to do. They must decide whether they're going to obey the Bible or not.

所以我再次提醒，这有两个层面：一个是政府层面，一个是个人层面。在政府层面，我们不能强求政府做什么，我们可以投票，但不能命令政府，他们必须自己决定是否顺服圣经。

But on an individual level, we must remember that even if the government doesn't put that person to death, that person is worthy of death. We often say, "My sin isn't that bad. His sin

isn't that bad, her sin isn't that bad." But God often says, "Yes, it is **bad enough** that you should be put to death."

但在个人层面，我们必须记住，即使政府不将这样的人治死，他在神眼中也是该死的。我们常说：“我的罪没那么糟糕，他的、她的罪也没那么糟糕。”但神常说：“不，这确实严重到应当被治死。”

[Exodus 22:20 NKJV]

"He who sacrifices to any god, except to the LORD only, he shall be utterly destroyed."

第二十章说：“祭祀别神，不单单祭祀耶和华的，那人必要灭绝。”

Which is the more serious sin? To let the devil in to be a sorceress, to lie with a beast, or to sacrifice to another god? The punishments are all the same.

哪一个罪更严重呢？是让魔鬼进来作女巫，是与兽同寝，还是向别神献祭？惩罚全都是一样的。

We don't live in that age in Canada. We don't have much idol worship. But certainly in China and other parts of the world they do. How bad would it be to sacrifice to a household idol? I don't understand this business, but how bad would it be to have an idol in your house and to sacrifice to it, as many in China apparently do? That would be **very bad**.

在加拿大，我们没有太多的偶像崇拜。但在中国及世界其他地方，确实很普遍。如果你在家里供奉着偶像并向它献祭，那该有多糟糕呢？我不懂这些，但在家摆放并拜偶像，像中国许多人做的那样，是非常糟糕的。

I keep telling you the story about what happened to me when I was a little boy. This didn't happen to me, but it could have. My mother says to me, "Harold, why didn't you do that?" I say, "Because Mrs. Jones told me that I don't have to." My mother would have said to me, "Harold, Mrs. Jones is not your mother. You don't do what she says. You must do what I said. **I am your mother.**"

我一直跟大家讲我小时候的故事。这没有发生在我身上，但非常有可能发生。我妈妈对我说：“Harold，你为什么不做那件事？”我回答：“因为琼斯太太说我不用做。”我妈妈就会对我说：“Harold，琼斯太太不是你的母亲，你不用听她的，你必须听我的，我才是你的母亲。”

And people say to me, "I don't have to do that, I don't want to do that, I'm okay." And I say, "Did God tell you that? Did God not say you're supposed to do it, and you say you don't have to do it?" Most people say there is a God, but they don't treat Him as God. If He is God,

you've got to do what He says. He is God! Don't worship, don't sacrifice to, don't pay attention to any other god.

人们对我说：“我不想做，我也没必要做，我觉得我挺好。”我就问：“神是这么告诉你的吗？神不是说你应该去做吗，你却说不用做？”大部分人承认有神，但并不把祂当神对待。如果祂是神，你必须照祂说的做。祂是神！不要敬拜、不要献祭、也不要理会任何其他的神。

[Exodus 22:21 NKJV]

"You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

第二十一节说：“不可虐待寄居的，也不可欺压他，因为你们在埃及地也作过寄居的。”

Be kind to strangers. What's the problem in our society? We often welcome strangers, but we don't hold them accountable. When a stranger came into the land of Israel, they were treated in a friendly and kind way, but they were responsible to obey the laws of the land.

要善待寄居的。我们当今社会有什么问题？我们常常欢迎外来人，却不让他们承担责任。当寄居者来到以色列时，人们对他非常友好，但他也必须遵守这片土地的法律。

But in our countries, usually the stranger is welcomed, but he is exempted from obeying many of the laws of the land. How foolish is that? But it's very common to disrespect strangers.

但在我们的国家，外来者往往很受欢迎，却不需遵守当地的许多法律，这多愚蠢啊！而不尊重寄居者也同样非常普遍。

And verse twenty-two. It is very common to disrespect those who don't have power:

[Exodus 22:22-24 NKJV]

²² "You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. ²³ If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry; ²⁴ and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.

第二十二节，不可虐待任何寡妇和无父的孤儿。

They are defenseless, and many people, for that reason, take advantage of them. You must not do that. The Lord says, "If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry."

他们无依无靠，很多人因此占他们便宜，但你千万不可这么做。主说，若是苦待他们一点，他们向祂一哀求，祂总要听他们的哀声。

This morning we were impressed by the fact that the Lord looks down on the Christian, sees his need, and treats him better than He would treat a bird or even a lily. And here we read that the Lord not only treats His children with respect, He treats the widow and the fatherless with respect as well.

今天早晨我们分享到，主垂顾基督徒，看顾我们的需要。祂看顾我们甚至过于飞鸟和野地里的百合花。在这里，我们看到主不仅尊重祂儿女，也同样看顾、看重寡妇和无父的孤儿。

In verse twenty-four, He says, "My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword. Your wives shall be widows and your children fatherless." So we say, "All right, it's really bad to be a sorceress; the Lord would kill you. It's really bad to be involved immorally with a beast; the Lord will kill you. It's bad to sacrifice to idols and other gods; the Lord will kill you."

在第二十四节，祂说：“我的怒气要发作，用刀杀你们，使你们的妻子成为寡妇，孩子成为无父的孤儿。”所以我们看，行邪术是非常糟糕的罪，主会杀了你；与兽同寝是极其败坏的，主也会杀了你；向偶像和别神献祭也是极其败坏的，主同样会杀了你。

But it's also equally bad to afflict widows or the fatherless, because verse twenty-four says, "My wrath will become hot and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives will be widows, and your children will be fatherless." How important is the law of God? How important are the ways of God? The answer is: it's a question of **life and death**.

但如果你苦待寡妇和孤儿，这在神眼里是同等严重的罪。第二十四节说：“我的怒气要发作，用刀杀你们，使你们的妻子成为寡妇，孩子成为无父的孤儿。”神的律法有多重要？神的方式有多重要？答案是：这是关乎生死的问题。

[Exodus 22:25 NKJV]

"If you lend money to any of My people who are poor among you, you shall not be like a moneylender to him; you shall not charge him interest.

第二十五节说：“我民中有贫穷人与你同住，你若借钱给他，不可如放债的向他取利。”

The thought goes on in verse twenty-six:

[Exodus 22:26-27 NKJV]

²⁶ If you ever take your neighbor's garment as a pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down. ²⁷ For that is his only covering, it is his garment for his skin. What will he sleep in? And it will be that when he cries to Me, I will hear, for I am gracious.

第二十六、二十七节接着说：“你若拿邻舍的衣服作当头，必在日落以前归还他；因他只有这一件当遮盖，是他遮身的衣服，若是没有，他拿什么睡觉呢？他哀求我，我就应允，因为我是有恩典的。”

So basically, don't take advantage of another man's weakness. Be gracious to him, be kind to him.

基本上，不要利用他人的软弱占便宜，要对他有恩惠、友善。

Verse twenty-eight says:

[Exodus 22:28 NKJV]

"You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people.

第二十八节说：“不可毁谤神，也不可诅咒你百姓的官长。”

Have you ever talked about a person in government and said, "He's a bad person," and then wished something evil on him? Some of the critics in our world today even go public and say, "You know, the world would be a better place if you were dead." Don't say bad things. Don't say bad things to people. It's not proper to say to your government, your governor, "We are better off without you."

你有没有议论过政府官员，说他是坏人，并诅咒他遭殃？当今有些评论家甚至公开发表言论，说“要是你死了，世界会更美好”。不要对人说坏话。对掌权的官长说“没有你我们会更好”是不妥当的。

We are to treat those in authority over us with respect. You don't always have to agree with them, but you don't curse them, and you do treat them with respect and honor, because God allowed them to become governors over you. So God's standards are very high, aren't they?

我们应当尊重在我们之上有权柄的人。你不需要凡事赞同他们，但绝不可诅咒他们，而应该给予他们尊重和敬意，因为是神允许他们在你之上掌权的。神的标准非常高，不是吗？

Wouldn't it be a nice thing if we lived in a country where people respected the government? If you opened the newspaper or read the news on your phone, and the only thing there was the good things the government has done. And if the reason for that was because the only thing the government did was good things, you'd say, "This is wonderful!"

如果我们生活在一个大家都尊重政府的国家，那该多好。如果你打开报纸，或者看手机新闻，上面刊登的都是政府做的好事。而原因正是政府所做的全都是好事，你一定会说“这太美好了！”

But it's been pointed out repeatedly that good news doesn't sell. And so often we get nothing but bad news, and the fact is that God doesn't like that. God says, "Through good news, if you are government—and if you are not government—you be careful what you say about the government." Don't make fun of them, don't revile them, don't curse them.

可是，好消息往往没有销路。因此我们听到的常是坏消息。事实上神不喜欢我们这样。神说：如果是政府就当行善，如果你不是政府，就要谨慎说话。不要戏弄他们，不要诽谤他们，也不要诅咒他们。

Verse twenty-nine:

[Exodus 22:29 NKJV]

"You shall not delay to offer the first of your ripe produce and your juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me.

第二十九节说：“你要从你庄稼中的谷物和酒榨中倒出来的酒，拿来献上，不可迟延。你要将头生的儿子归给我。”

Many people say, "I follow the Lord, and I plan, I am going to do this, I am going to do that." But the Christian doesn't just say, "I'm going to do it." The Christian does it. **Don't delay**—that's the thing. Don't delay. If it's right, do it when? **Now!**

很多人说：“我跟随主，我有计划，我准备做这做那。”但基督徒不仅是说“我准备去做”，而是去付诸行动。不可迟延，关键就在这。如果是对的事，什么时候做？现在就做！

And in particular, "The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me." In a family, which one is given to God? The very first. What does that mean? I'm not sure how it means, I guess if it's God's, I'm going to have to train that first son to be like God, to serve God.

特别是说：“你要将头生的儿子归给我。”在一个家庭里，哪一个要归给神呢？就是长子。这是什么意思？我不完全确定，我想如果他是属于神的，那我就必须训练长子去像神、去服事神。

Why would you do that with the firstborn rather than the second or third? The answer, of course, is God always deserves the **first**. But the answer is also that the second son, and the third, they will tend to follow the first. So if the first is trained to follow God, it's going to be easier for the others to follow God; it's going to be easier for you to train the others to follow God.

为什么只在长子身上这样做，而不是次子或三子？答案当然是神永远配得那上好的、首要的。另一个原因则是次子和三子往往会效法长子。所以如果长子被训练去跟从神，其余的孩子就更容易跟从，你训练他们时也会容易得多。

So verse thirty:

[Exodus 22:30 NKJV]

Likewise you shall do with your oxen and your sheep. It shall be with its mother seven days; on the eighth day you shall give it to Me.

第三十节说：“你牛羊头生的，也要这样：七天当跟着母，第八天要归给我。”

So if you had a couple of sheep, and they had a firstborn sheep, what would you do with it? You let it live for seven days, and then you would take it, and you would offer it to God. Why would you do that? Because the first of everything that God gives you is from God, and therefore He deserves the first of everything—and frankly, all the rest of everything too. And so, all through Scripture, all through life, we have the principle: the Lord is the one who gets the firstfruits.

如果你有几头羊，它们产下了第一只小羊，你要怎么处理？先让它跟着母羊七天，在第八天带过来献给神。为什么要这样做？因为你所拥有的一切头生，都是神所赐的。因此，祂理当得着所有头生的，坦白说，其余的一切也都是属于祂的。整本圣经和我们的生活中都有这个原则：主是得着初熟果子的那一位。

From a New Testament concept, who is in first place in your life? You say, "Well, it's God, Jesus." And then someone says to you, "Can you prove that? What is there about your behavior that proves Jesus gets the first place?" If your behavior doesn't prove it, then your words mean **nothing**.

在新约的概念里，谁在你生命中占第一位？你会说：“是神，是主耶稣。”但如果有人问你：“你能证明吗？你的行为怎么证明耶稣占首位？”如果你的行为无法证明，那你的话就没有意义。

And then verse thirty-one broadens the theme and says:

[Exodus 22:31 NKJV]

"And you shall be holy men to Me: you shall not eat meat torn by beasts in the field; you shall throw it to the dogs.

第三十一节深化了这一主题，说：“你们要在我的面前作圣洁的人。因此，田间被野兽撕裂的肉，你们不可吃，要丢给狗吃。”

So the Christian doesn't even eat things that should not be eaten. He doesn't do things that shouldn't be done; he doesn't eat things that shouldn't be eaten. My father and I like to fish. I suppose really the truth is I like to fish and my father was willing to come with me to fish.

基督徒甚至不吃不该吃的东西。他不该做的事不做，不该吃的东西不吃。我和父亲都很喜欢去钓鱼。其实真相是我喜欢钓鱼，而我父亲愿意陪我去。

Sometimes we would go fishing, we'd be out for three or four hours, and we'd catch a little trout about this long. And the question is: who gets to eat it? My father was pretty gracious, so I usually got to eat that little trout.

有时我们出去钓鱼，两三个小时后，我们会钓到一条这么长的小鳟鱼。问题来了：谁来吃？我父亲非常慷慨，所以通常是由我来吃那条小鳟鱼。

One day when we were fishing, I looked over on the water and there was a salmon that I could see. It was a great big salmon, probably about this long. And the problem was, it wasn't swimming. It was lying on the surface of the water, belly up, upside down. I said, "Dad, that's a real salmon!" I said, "We could go over, we could get that. That's easier than fishing for it, and just pick it out of the water." What should we have done with that salmon?

有一天我们钓鱼时，我看到水面上有一条大三文鱼，大概这么长。问题是，它并没有在游。它反转过来，肚皮朝上飘在水面上。我说：“爸，那是条真正的三文鱼！我们可以过去捞起来，这比用钓的容易多了，直接捞上来就行。”那我们应该怎么处理那条三文鱼呢？

Well, for some reason, the salmon was dead. Probably one of two reasons: number one, it could be he was killed by some other fish or something else, or number two, it could be he was diseased. So what do you do? Well, we just rowed right on by; we left him. We said, "If it's been beaten by another animal, we couldn't eat it according to this verse. And if he's diseased, we don't want to eat him because his disease might become our disease."

既然它是死的，无外乎两个原因：第一，被其他大鱼或什么东西杀死的；第二，它生病了。所以怎么做呢？我们直接划船过去，把它留在那。我们想，如果是被其他野兽撕裂的，按照这节经文，我们不能吃它；如果它病了，我们更不想吃，因为它的病可能会传染给我们。

Who knows how serious that disease could have been? We could have been a sick person, we could have been a sick family, we could have gotten very sick from eating bad meat. So all kinds of regulations now in the Bible as to how you're to live, what you're to eat, what you're to do, what you're to follow, and what you're to turn away from.

谁知道那疾病有多严重？一旦吃了变质的肉，我们个人可能生病，整家人也都会生病。所以，圣经中有很多规条，指导你该怎么生活、该吃什么、该做什么、要顺从什么，又要远离什么。

Laws of Justice, Equity, and the Sabbath

Now chapter twenty-three:

[Exodus 23:1 NKJV]

"You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

第二十三章第一节说：“不可散布谣言，不可与恶人联手作不义的见证。”

If you hear something and it's a lie, don't repeat it. It says, "Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness." You remember when they put the Lord Jesus on trial, they brought many false witnesses against Him. Should they have brought false witnesses against Jesus? No, because it says, "Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness." The people who told lies about Him, on Judgment Day they were wrong.

如果你听到了谎言，千万不要传播。它说“不可与恶人联手作不义的见证”。你们记得在审判主耶稣基督的时候，他们找了许多做假证的人控告祂。他们该不该找人作假见证？绝不应该，因为经上说不可与恶人联手。那些在审判日说谎的人，他们终将面对惩罚。

Verse two:

[Exodus 23:2 NKJV]

You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice.

第二节说：“不可随众行恶，不可在诉讼的事上随众偏行，作见证屈枉正直。”

Is it common for pressure to come on people and they say, "We'll all go and do this," and do you go and do it? Many times in my life, when I was growing up especially, but much later as well, people said, "Let's do this." I said, "We can't do it, it's wrong." They said, "We will do it, everything's fine." I had to say, "Sorry, I will not go with you to do that bad thing."

人们常常迫于群体的压力。当别人都说“我们一起去干这个吧”，你是否也跟着去？我这一生，尤其是在成长的阶段，遇到过许多次，大家说“我们来干这个吧”，我说“这不对，我们不能做”，他们说“没事，做吧”。但我只能坚持说：“抱歉，我不跟你们同流合污。”

What's going on in our day is that people are paid by governments, by individuals, by bad people; they're paid to do bad things. It doesn't matter what you're paid. Don't go with them. If they're going to do the bad thing, you don't go.

在我们这个时代，有人受雇于政府、个人或坏人，拿钱去干坏事。不管他们给你多少报酬，都不要跟去。如果他们做的是坏事，你就不要参与。

What could very well happen is that you might lose some friends in the process. But in the process, if you honor God, the blessing of God will be upon you. And so, going through my mind right now are several stories in my own life when I had to say to people, "No, I will not go with you." And I praise the Lord that He gave me the ability and the willingness to say that. There was blessing in my life because of it.

这样做你很可能会失去一些朋友，但在过程中你若尊崇神，祂的祝福必会降临。我脑海中现在浮现出自己年轻时的几段往事，当时我不得不说：“不，我不跟你们去。”我赞美主，因为祂赐给我能力和心愿去拒绝邪恶，也因此我的生命得到了祝福。

So here's the theme—not just lying, but in your life, verse two: "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil, nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice." Don't do that. Tell the truth, say the truth, and don't allow anything to keep you from telling the truth and obeying the truth.

这不仅关乎说谎，在生命中我们更要照第二节说的：“不可随众行恶，不可在诉讼的事上随众偏行，作见证屈枉正直。”千万不要那样做。要讲真话，说实情，不要让任何事阻碍你作真见证、服从真理。

Now interestingly, telling the truth goes both ways. You don't tell a lie in order to affect a rich man; you don't even tell a lie in order to protect a poor man.

有意思的是，诚实是双向的。你既不能说谎去中伤富人，也不能说谎去偏护穷人。

So verse three:

[Exodus 23:3 NKJV]

You shall not show partiality to a poor man in his dispute.

第三节说：“也不可在此诉讼的事上偏护穷人。”

It doesn't matter whether the man is rich or poor. The fact is, did he do what was right or not? You must tell the truth.

不论这个人是富足还是贫穷，事实关键在于他所行的是否正直，你必须据实相告。

All right, verse four: what do you do if you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray? What do you do?

[Exodus 23:4 NKJV]

"If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again.

那么，第四节说：如果遇见你仇敌的牛或驴迷了路，你要怎么做？“若遇见你仇敌的牛或是驴迷了路，总要牵回来交给他。”

You might say, "That's my enemy's ox. He's not working in the field; he's going off into the woods." And you could say, "Well, it serves my enemy right. Look at that, God heard me, God watched me. God says he's wrong, I'm right, and so off goes the ox into the woods." What do you do? "You shall surely bring him back to him again."

你可能会说：“那是仇敌的牛，它跑到树林子里，没在地里干活。”你也许会幸灾乐祸：“活该，连神都在惩罚他，看来神是站在我这一边的。”结果那牛就消失在树林里。但你应该怎么做呢？“总要牵回来交给他。”

You go get the ox, take it back to your enemy and say, "Here you are. I'm going to give you your ox back. You don't deserve it, but I'm giving it back to you because that's right."

你要过去把牛牵回来，还给仇敌，跟他说：“这是你的牛。虽然你不配得，但我还是还给你，因为这是对的。”

Verse five:

[Exodus 23:5 NKJV]

If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it.

第五节说：“若看见恨你人的驴压卧在重驮之下，不可走开不理它，总要和驴主一同抬开重驮。”

Okay, here's the donkey, and it's lying at the side of the road under a burden it can't get up; the burden is too heavy. You could say, "That serves that donkey's boss right. He didn't treat anybody right, including his donkey." So you leave the donkey at the side of the road and you walk on. But even if you wanted to do that, you must help him. How would you help him?

有头驴因托着极重的行李，在路边累趴下了，自己站不起来。你可能会说：“活该，这驴的主人对谁都不好，连对他的牲畜也坏，让它趴着吧。”你就这样走开。即使你想这么做，你也必须去帮他。怎么帮呢？

You unload the load, let the donkey stand up, put a little bit of load back on him, take the rest of the load on your own back, and go back to the man who hates you and give it all to him. God's laws are not only right, they're gracious, they're good. And doing what God says is right—you know it's right.

你要把东西卸下来，让驴站起来，然后再放少部分东西在它背上。其余的行李由你替他背着，跟驴主人一起把重托抬回家，交还给那个恨你的人。神的律法不仅公义，而且充满了恩典与美善。遵行祂的话是理所当然的。

Verse six:

[Exodus 23:6-7 NKJV]

⁶ "You shall not pervert the judgment of your poor in his dispute. ⁷ Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked.

第六、七节说：“不可在穷人诉讼的事上屈枉正直。当远离虚假的事。不可杀无辜和有义的人，因我必不以恶人为义。”

Don't ever tell lies; always do what is right and tell the truth. Keep yourself far from a false matter. Do not get on the wrong side of any situation. Keep yourself free from any false matter.

永远不要撒谎，要持守正直、诚实。远离虚假，绝不在任何情况下站错立场，保守自己不受虚谎的玷污。

And another side of this is verse eight:

[Exodus 23:8 NKJV]

And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous.

第八节又说：“不可受贿赂，因为贿赂能叫明眼人变瞎了，又能颠倒义人的话。”

It's interesting, I look back in my life, and I don't ever remember anybody offering me a bribe. I don't know what they would have done had they, or what I would have done had they done it. But this says: **don't ever take a bribe**. A bribe perverts justice. Don't get involved.

很有意思，我回想这一生，不记得有人贿赂过我。我不知道如果有人行贿会怎样，或者我会怎么反应。但这节经文清楚地写着：绝不可受贿。贿赂颠倒是非，千万不可沾染。

And verse nine:

[Exodus 23:9 NKJV]

"Also you shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the heart of a stranger, because you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

第九节说：“不可欺压寄居的，因为你们在埃及地作过寄居的，知道寄居的心。”

So it is important—all these verses in summary—it is important to respect government and to do what government says. It is important for governments to exercise God's justice and do things God's way. But it's important for us as individuals, regardless of what our government does, to always be on the side of truth and equity. And very often there is a cost associated with doing what is right. And God says: you go ahead and do it.

总结这几节经文，尊重政府、听从政府的命令非常重要。同样地，政府以神的公义来施政、按神的方式行事也非常重要。但作为个人，无论政府如何，我们都应该始终站在真理和公义的一边。往往，坚持正义是要付出代价的，但神说：你要只管去做。

Now, we're swinging now to the laws regarding the Sabbath. Verse ten says:

[Exodus 23:10-11 NKJV]

¹⁰ "Six years you shall sow your land and gather in its produce, ¹¹ but the seventh

year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave, the beasts of the field may eat. In like manner you shall do with your vineyard and your olive grove.

下面，我们来看关于安息的律法。第十、十一节说：“六年你要耕种田地，收藏土产；只是第七年要叫地歇息，荒废，使你民中的穷人有吃的；他们所剩下的，野地的兽可以吃。你的葡萄园和橄榄园也要照样办理。”

God instituted a principle in life when He created the world. How long did creation take? Six days. What happened on the seventh day? God rested. And so He rested, and that was a good principle that was started. Then He brought in the law of the Sabbath for people. And so, why does God say to you and me, "You can work six days, but the seventh day you rest"? The reason He does that is because God cares for us, and He gives us a day off.

神创造世界时就设立了这个生命的原则。创世用了多久？六天。第七天发生了什么？神歇了祂的工，安息了。这开创了一个极好的原则。接着，神为人类颁布了安息日的律法。神为什么对你我说“你可以作工六天，但第七天必须休息”？那是因为祂关怀我们，要给我们放一天假。

When I was a boy, my father used to work as a banker. He had to work five and a half days a week, but he usually got Saturday afternoon off and Sunday off, and I liked that very much because I used to get to spend Saturday afternoon with my dad. And then we spent Sunday with my dad. It would have been a totally different life if my dad had worked seven days a week. And so when I was told I didn't have to go to school on Saturday or Sunday, I was really excited. I thought, "That's a good deal." Aren't you glad God cares for you?

我小时候，父亲在银行工作。他每周要上班五天半，但周六下午和周日可以休息。我很喜欢这样，因为周六下午和周日都可以陪爸爸。如果他一周七天都在工作，那我的童年生活会完全不同。所以一听到周末两天不用上学，我总是很兴奋，觉得太棒了。你为着神的关怀而感恩吗？

But what does this verse say? Verse eleven: "The seventh year you shall let your land rest, lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat." I apologize, I was talking about days earlier, but this is about seven years. The principle is the same: **six on, one off**. If it's good for you, it's also good for your land. But the seventh year you shall let your land rest, lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat, and what they leave, the beasts of the field may eat. God does that for three reasons: it's good for you, it's good for the poor, and it's good for the beasts. God cares for us all.

那么，第十一节说：“只是第七年要叫地歇息，荒废，使你民中的穷人有吃的。”我刚才把“日”和“年”混在一起了，抱歉，但原则是一样的：作工六天（年），安息一天（年）。这对你有益，

对土地也有益。第七年休耕，让穷人、野兽都有吃的。神这么做有三个原因：对我们好，对穷人好，对受造物也好。祂关爱一切。

And now verse twelve, the logic that I was trying to explain earlier:

[Exodus 23:12 NKJV]

Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest, that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female servant and the stranger may be refreshed.

第十二节正是我刚才想解释的原则：“六日你要作工，第七日要安息，使牛、驴可以歇息，并使你婢女的儿子和寄居的都可以舒畅。”

God says everybody deserves, everything deserves time off! So God basically put together the logic of a happy life, and the logic of a happy life is: **six on, one off; six on, one off.**

神的意思是，每个人和动物都需要休息！祂制定了幸福生活的逻辑，就是“六天作工，一天安息；工作六天，休息一天”。

Verse thirteen says:

[Exodus 23:13 NKJV]

"And in all that I have said to you, be circumspect and make no mention of the name of other gods, nor let it be heard from your mouth.

第十三节说：“凡我对你们说的话，你们要谨守。别神的名，你不可提，也不可从你口中传说。”

There's lots out there that is evil. You don't have to learn good and evil. What was wrong with eating in the Garden? What was wrong with eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? You would learn the logic of evil. We don't need the logic of evil. There's a lot of evil religions out there. Do you understand them all? I certainly hope not. God says, "I don't want you to have the knowledge of evil." And so there are false religions out there, and many of them have got gods associated with them, and frankly, I don't know very much about them. "Make no mention of the name of other gods."

外面有很多邪恶。我们不需要去明辨各种恶。亚当夏娃在伊甸园里吃“分别善恶树”的果子有什么不对？错在他们由此学习到了邪恶的逻辑。我们不需要明白恶。世上有许多异教，你全都懂吗？希望不是。神说不希

望我们拥有这些邪恶的知识。世上有虚假的宗教和他们所拜的神，坦白说我一无所知，也不想知道。“别神的名，你不可提。”

So sometimes you'll be in a conversation with someone and that person has a difficulty and says, "I'm not supposed to mention the name of that particular bad thing." Don't go around talking about things that are evil. Many people say you should be teaching that which is evil, and there are awful things, filthy things, wicked things that are being taught in schools to children. Don't do that. Don't mention evil religions, don't study evil religion. You study the Bible. Learn what is **true**.

有时你与人交谈，对方可能在难处中提到他不该提及的那些恶事。不要四处谈论恶。许多人觉得应该让人去研究和教导邪恶，甚至在学校里教导孩子们一些污秽、可怕和邪恶的事。不要那样做。不要提起邪恶的宗教，也不要去做研究。你要学习圣经，明白什么是真理。

We've told you this story before about our father who was a banker. One of the problems bankers have is that people try to give them counterfeit money. And our father had to teach the bankers how to make sure that they didn't accept counterfeit money. And so he simply said to them, "You memorize what true money is. You memorize the **good**, and you'll be able to identify any kind of evil, any kind of false, counterfeit money, because you know what the real should look like." And that is especially true regarding the Bible. Don't study false religion. Study what is true. Study your Bible. Don't worry about the other.

我曾说过我那当银行家的父亲的故事。银行家面临的问题之一就是收到假钞。我父亲必须培训职员，以防收到假钱。他只是对他们说：“你们要对真钞了如指掌。只要熟悉真币的每一个细节，就能轻易认出任何假钞，因为你们知道真钞应该是什么样子的。”对圣经也是同理。不用去研读假道理、邪门歪道，只要专心研读圣经，晓得什么是真理，其他的一概不用理会。

Yeah, there was a schedule in the life of the believer in the Old Testament. The schedule was: once every seven days was the Sabbath day; you rest that day. The schedule was: once every seven years, you behave differently. If you are a farmer, you let the land lie fallow that year.

旧约信徒的生活中有一套固定日程。每七天一次的是安息日，那天你得休息。每七年也有不同的安排。如果你是农夫，那一年就得休耕。

The Three Annual Feasts and God's Promised Angel

The third key thing about their schedule was verse fourteen:

[Exodus 23:14 NKJV]

"Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year:

日程中的第三件大事记录在第十四节：“一年三次，你要向我守节。”

So here's my question: do you have a schedule in your life that's related to the truth of God? Secondly, do you live up to that schedule? Most people have a private schedule. Christians don't have a private schedule. You should say, "I want to know what God's schedule for me is, and I am going to follow that schedule." Get a good, rigorous Christian schedule.

那么问题来了：你的人生日程表是否与神的真理相关？其次，你有没有严格照着去做？大多数人都有一份私人日程。基督徒不该只有个人的日程。你当说：“我想知道神对我的安排，我要照着祂的时间表行事。”建立一套良好、严谨的基督徒作息。

Children had to go to school five days a week. One of the most important things school children learn is: get out of bed early in the morning to make sure you're at school on time. Schedules are very important; don't interrupt God's schedule in your life. I've heard of Christians who are much more rigorous in their schedule than I am. I'm amazed. They have better stories about their lives than I have. Following God's schedule, a rigorous schedule, is important. So if you were living in Israel and following the Lord, you would worship Him every Sabbath day. And you would rest your land and your activities on the seventh year. And three times in the year you would stop to make sure that you keep His feasts.

孩子们每周得上学五天。学校里最重要的一课往往是：早上早点起床，确保按时到校。规律的作息十分重要，不要破坏神在你生命中的时间表。我听闻有些基督徒的作息安排比我更严格，这令我深感佩服，他们人生的经历也比我精彩得多。遵行神的时间、拥有严谨的作息非常重要。如果你在旧约的以色列并跟随主，你每逢安息日都会敬拜祂，在第七年让地歇息、暂停耕作，并且每年三次放下工作，专门守祂的节期。

It's going to be verse fifteen:

[Exodus 23:15 NKJV]

You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty);

第十五节说：“你要守除酵节，照我所吩咐你的，在亚笔月内所定的日期，吃无酵饼七天。谁也不可空手朝见我，因为你是在这月出了埃及。”

Verse sixteen:

[Exodus 23:16 NKJV]

and the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field.

And verse seventeen:

[Exodus 23:17 NKJV]

"Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord GOD.

第十六节说：“又要守收割节，所收的是你田间所种、劳碌得来初熟之物。并在年底收藏，要守收藏节。”第十七节接着说：“一切的男丁要一年三次朝见主耶和华。”

Is that important? Well, the Lord Jesus Christ, you'll remember when He was twelve years old, He was in the city of Jerusalem. How did He get to Jerusalem when He was twelve years old? Well, actually, He lived in Bethlehem. And I'm not sure how many days it would take to get from Bethlehem to Jerusalem. But His family went to Jerusalem three times a year, as we have here. It probably took them several days to get there, several days to be there, and several days to go home.

这重要吗？我们记得主耶稣基督十二岁的时候去了耶路撒冷。祂生在（圣经说祂住在）伯利恒，从那里怎么去耶路撒冷？虽然我不确定从伯利恒到耶路撒冷要走几天，但祂的家人每年三次按着此处的诫命去耶路撒冷。他们可能需要花好几天在路上，在当地留几天，再花好几天回家。

When I was a boy, I said, "I'd like that: three vacations a year!" And frankly, that's what it was for them. They had three wonderful times. They traveled together as families, as groups, and they had lots of friendship, fellowship, and they didn't have to go to work every day or even go to school every day. What is God's schedule for you? Check your Bible, read it, and make sure you follow His schedule. They did in the Old Testament; Jesus' family did.

小时候我常说：“那我可太喜欢了，一年有三次假期！”实际上对他们而言正是这样。那是三次美好的旅程，家人和邻里结伴而行，享有亲密的友谊与相交，而且好几天不用干活或上学。神给你定的是什么时间表？读读圣经，对照一下，确保你遵行祂的时间表。在旧约时代他们是这样做的，耶稣的家也是。

So I told you this story, but I tell you again. I told you most of these stories, but anyway, I apologize. My schedule was: I came to 16th Avenue Gospel Chapel every Sunday when I was a teenager. And in my first year of university, we had a very important exam on Monday. I didn't know that course very well.

抱歉，我可能经常重复这些故事。我年轻时，每主日都去 16th Avenue Gospel Chapel。上大学第一年，某周一有一场极为重要的考试，而我对那门课掌握得并不好。

But I thought, "This is very interesting." This particular Sunday, I was singing in the choir, and the choir went over to Victoria to sing at some churches in Victoria that day. So I said, "You know, if I just do this, I could tell the people that were in the choir, I could say I can't go. And I could tell the people at the chapel that the choir was singing in Victoria." So the choir thought I was at sixteenth, and the sixteenth people thought I was in Victoria. So I stayed at home and I studied for my exam. I said, "This is pretty good. I get to study for the exam, and everybody thinks that I'm doing the right thing."

可是碰巧那周日，合唱队要去 Victoria 的几家教会献诗。我想：“这倒是个机会。”我告诉合唱队我不去了，又告诉教会的人合唱队要去 Victoria。于是合唱队以为我留在 16th Avenue，而 16th Avenue 的人以为我去了 Victoria。这样，我就能神不知鬼不觉地留在家复习功课。我觉得这计划太棒了，既能复习，大家还都以为我在忙正事。

So how did that story end? I failed. Okay, served me right. Okay, live up to God's schedule.

结果如何？我考不及格。活该！所以，必须遵循神的时间安排。

All right, three feasts. So, three holidays every year. I just got to tell you one other story. There was a man by the name of Jeroboam. He said, "I don't want people to follow God; I want them to follow me." So he divided the children of Israel, and he took ten tribes, went off to Samaria, and he led the people there.

每年有三次守节，也就是三次假期。我再讲一个故事，有一个人叫 Jeroboam，他想让人民跟从他而非跟从神。于是他分裂了以色列，带领十个支派往 Samaria（撒玛利亚），并在那里统治。

He said, "But the people like these feasts. If I let them go back to Jerusalem, as the feast says, as these verses say they should—if I let them go back to Jerusalem, they'll probably end up going back to Rehoboam, David's grandson, and they'll leave me. But if I keep them here, we can all have our separate kingdom."

他想：“老百姓都看重这些节期，如果让他们回耶路撒冷守节（如圣经所吩咐的），他们很可能重新归顺大卫的孙子 Rehoboam，从而抛弃我。但如果我能留住他们，我们就能保有分裂出来的王国。”

And so, the precise verse says that Jeroboam said, "If I let them go back, they'll follow Rehoboam. I'm going to set up a feast here in Samaria, and they can all come to my feast." He said, "I'm going to invite them on a particular date." And the Lord says, "a date that he made up out of his own heart." He says, "I've got my own schedule, my own party, my own feast. We'll do it my way, but we've got to do—we've got to have some religion." Don't be like Jeroboam. You follow His schedule. Don't make up your own schedule.

经文记载，Jeroboam 担心人民会回去跟从 Rehoboam，于是他便在 Samaria 设立了一个节期。圣经说，那是他“私自所定的日子”。他说：“我有自己的时间表，我们用自己的方式来守我设定的节，但形式上还是要有一些宗教色彩。”千万别像 Jeroboam 那样，我们要顺从神的时间，不可凭私意发明自己的规条。

Verse eighteen:

[Exodus 23:18 NKJV]

"You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leavened bread; nor shall the fat of My sacrifice remain until morning.

第十八节说：“不可将我祭牲的血和有酵的饼一同献上；也不可将我祭物的脂油留到早晨。”

Is that really important? Whether you offer blood and leavened bread at the same time, would that be important? That the fat of the sacrifice shouldn't remain until the morning, is that important? God says, "Yes, it's important." Don't be the kind of person who says, "I've gone through the Bible, I found the things that are important, and I'm going to do that, and I found the things that aren't important, and I don't worry about them. I just worry about the important parts."

献血和有酵饼不能在一起，这真的很重要吗？祭牲的脂油不可留到早晨，这重要吗？神说：是的，这很重要。千万不要做这种人：自以为通读了圣经，挑出那些你觉得重要的去遵守，而把那些你认为无关紧要的铺在一边，只做所谓的“大事”。

Verse nineteen:

[Exodus 23:19 NKJV]

The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

第十九节说：“地里首先初熟之物要送到耶和华你神的殿。不可用山羊羔母的奶煮山羊羔。”

So you go out into the field, and you begin the harvest, and you get a bucket full of whatever it is. You bring it in, and what do you do with it? The first of your harvest, what do you do? You take it to the Lord. You give it to the Lord, and then you go back and you get the next part. What do you do with the second bucket? You take it home and eat it, that's what you do.

当收割季节到来，你下到地里，装了满盆满罐的土产。对于这第一批收获，你应该怎么做？你要把它带去献给主。然后你回到地里收割其余的部分，这第二盆你怎么办？带回家享用。就是这样。

Who gets the firstfruit? I remember reading the story—the details I can't recall, but David was with the Lord for a long time, praying, praying, praying. He went days without eating. I think it's when his son was dying. And then he found out his son died. So what did he do? He went home and he cleaned himself up. Then he went to the temple and worshiped the Lord, and then he went home and had something to eat.

谁理应得到初熟的果子？我记得读过一个故事，细节记不清了，但当时大卫正在切切地向主求告。他绝食了多日，好像是他的儿子病危时。后来当他得知儿子死了，他做了什么？他回家洗净了身体，进到圣殿敬拜神，然后才回家吃东西。

I'm not sure whether I would have done it in that order. I think I probably would have gone home, had a good meal, never mind, and then had a good sleep. And then I'd get up in the morning and clean myself up, and then I'd go down and say to God, "Thank you very much." All the difference in the world! Yeah, unbelievable.

我要是处于那情况，不知道会不会遵循这个顺序。我大概会先回家美餐一顿、蒙头大睡，等第二早起来洗漱完，再去向神表达感谢。这就是本质的区别！

All right, what does verse nineteen say? It ends with this line: "You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk." What? We've been reading all these important things. Is this important? You say, "I guess it's important, but it seems strange in this context." And it's true. If you're going to eat goat, you can fry it and have a goat steak. You can roast it in the fire and have a goat roast. Or you could boil it in some water and have—I don't know what you call it, but you could have it. But you can't boil it in its mother's milk.

第十九节的末尾写着：“不可用山羊羔母的奶煮山羊羔。”什么？前面谈了那么多要紧事，这一条也重要吗？也许你会觉得它在这个语境中显得很奇特。如果你要吃山羊，你可以煎着吃、烤着吃，也可以在水里煮着吃，但绝不能用它母亲的奶来煮它。

Now frankly, I have never truly understood that. All I know is that if I had a goat, I wouldn't boil it in its mother's milk. That's not really an option because I don't know much about goat's milk, and in particular, I've never had goat meat in the context of goat milk.

坦白讲我从没真正明白它的含义。我只晓得如果我有只羊，我绝不这么做。不过我其实也不怎么吃羊肉或喝羊奶。

If you were to go to Israel today, and you would say, "I would like to know the most important things about the religious language, the religion of the Bible." All over the land of Israel today, you will find a distinction is made between milk products and meat products. You can't buy milk in a meat restaurant, and you can't buy meat in a milk restaurant. And you say, "What?" And they say, "Because you can't boil a young goat in its mother's milk, that's why we do that."

如果你今天去到以色列，想要了解圣经宗教里最严密的规矩。你会发现，在以色列，奶制品和肉制品是被严格区分开来的。你绝不可能在肉食餐馆买到奶，也不可能奶食餐馆买到肉。你会问为什么，而他们会回答：“因为圣经说不能用母奶煮山羊羔，所以我们这样做。”

And frankly, it doesn't say you can't eat milk in a meat restaurant or meat in a milk restaurant—it doesn't say that. So why do you have different religions in the world? That was the question: why are there so many different religions? And the answer is because some people look at the Bible and they say, "We don't really understand this, but we think it means this. Therefore, we're going to emphasize that and we'll forget everything else."

事实上圣经并没有说不能在肉食餐厅喝牛奶，或是在奶食餐厅吃肉。这就带出一个问题：世界上为什么有这么多的教派和宗教？原因就在于，有人看到圣经里的某些条文并不完全理解，却在私下揣测后便过分地强调这一条，结果反而把其他更关键的诫命抛在了脑后。

Don't be foolish. When the Bible says something clearly, follow it. And when there's something that's not so clear, don't pretend that you know what it means and make a great big mountain out of it when it simply says, "Don't do that." It doesn't say you can't put goat's milk and goat's meat in the same refrigerator. It doesn't say that. Don't make a religion out of something that is simple but not necessarily clear in the Bible, and don't pretend that you can say what it means and everybody else would be wrong if they didn't do what you said. That's nonsense.

不要愚昧。圣经解释得很明确的事，你照着做便是。而那些并非最核心、不甚明朗的事，不要自作聪明，把它放大成不可逾越的宗教高山。圣经只是简单地说不要那么做，并未说你不能把羊肉和羊奶放进同一个冰箱。不要在原本简单的事上建立人为的繁文缛节，更不要以此论断他人，那毫无道理。

So if you really go to Israel today, and you simply ask the question, "What is the most important verse in the Bible?" many people would say Exodus twenty-three verse nineteen is one of the most important verses in the Bible. And frankly, it's not.

如果你今天真的去到以色列，问他们圣经中哪一节最重要，许多人会指着出埃及记二十三章十九节说这是最重要的之一，其实它显然不是。

Okay, so we've read about lots of laws, some of which you immediately say, "That's wonderful," others of which you say, "Oh, oh, I better be careful, I could easily do that," and some of which you say, "If I were to do that, it'd be pretty hard." What would happen if you did all that?

我们读了许多诫命，有些你会赞不绝口，有些你会觉得自己需要万分警惕以防违背，还有些你会觉得要做到简直太难了。但假如你全都谨守遵行，会发生什么呢？

Verse twenty:

[Exodus 23:20 NKJV]

"Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.

第二十章说：“看哪，我差遣使者在你们前面，在路上保护你们，领你们到我所预备的地方去。”

Verse twenty-one:

[Exodus 23:21-22 NKJV]

²¹ Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him. ²² But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

第二十一、二十二节：“你们在他面前要谨慎，听从他的话，不可惹他，因为他必不赦免你们的过犯，因我的名在他身上。你若实在听从他的话，照我一切所说的去行，我就向你的仇敌作仇敌，向你的敌人作敌人。”

Is that a good promise? I like that promise. You follow the Lord. What's He going to do? He's going to defend you against your enemies and your adversaries. Well, I just say, **Hallelujah!** That's a good blessing. I would like that as I go through life.

这是一个多么好的应许啊！我很喜欢这个应许。当你跟从主，祂会怎么做？祂会保护你，亲自对付你的仇敌和敌人。我要说，哈利路亚！在人生旅途中，这实在是最美好的福气。

"For My Angel will go before you." That's what I want.

[Exodus 23:23 NKJV]

For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.

“我的使者要在你前面行。”这也是我所期盼的。第二十三节说：“我的使者要在你前面行，领你到亚摩利人、赫人、比利洗人、迦南人、希未人、耶布斯人那里去，我必将他们剪除。”

Here are their six enemies. And the Lord says, "You follow Me, you obey Me, I'll lead you into their land, and I will cut them off as enemies against you."

这里指出了他们的六个强敌。但主应许：你跟随我、顺服我，我就带你进入他们的领地，并将那些仇敌在你面前彻底剪除。

Let's read verses twenty-four and twenty-five:

[Exodus 23:24-25 NKJV]

²⁴ You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred pillars. ²⁵ "So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you.

我们来看第二十四、二十五节：“你不可跪拜他们的神，不可事奉他，也不可效法他们的行为，却要把神像尽行拆毁，打碎他们的柱像。你们要事奉耶和华你们的神，他必赐福与你的粮和你的水，也必从你们中间除去疾病。”

Is that a good deal? Would you like God to bless your bread and bless your water and take sickness away from you? You know, when they followed the Lord, the children of Israel were a healthy people.

这难道不是极大的恩典吗？你渴望神亲自祝福你的口粮和水，并挪去你身上所有的疾病吗？事实上，当以色列人全然顺服神时，他们真的是一个无比健康的民族。

Verse twenty-six:

[Exodus 23:26 NKJV]

No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.

第二十六节说：“你境内必没有流产的，没有不生产的。我要使你满了你年日的数目。”

It's amazing. As you read the Bible, it is full of requests for obedience and promises for obedience. So this morning we were on the verses that said, "Seek the Lord, call upon Him." Don't just sit there. Believe it, obey it, live it, enjoy it!

这非常奇妙。当你通读圣经，会发现里面充满了要求顺服的话，也包含了因顺服而来的应许。今天早晨我们看到经文说“当寻求主，呼求祂”。不要只是坐在那里，要去相信、去顺从、去活出它，并且在其中享有喜乐！

The Bible is full of simplicity. What is it? He wants to be your Father. You let Him be your Father. He'll help you, He'll encourage you, and He will bless your life. You say, "Well, that's awfully simple. That's what I want." As a little boy, I said, "That's what I want." And you know what? That's what I got. I got the blessings of God. You do the same, and you'll get the same. God's promises are true. These were written thirty-five hundred years ago. They're just as true today as they were then.

圣经的真理极其单纯。是什么？祂渴望做你的父亲，你只需顺服祂这位父亲。祂会拉你一把、鼓励你，祝福你的人生。你会说：“这太单纯了，正是我想要的。”在我还是个小男孩时，我就说“这就是我想要的”。你们知道吗？我确实得到了。我一生领受了神的极大的祝福。只要你也这样做，你也必得着同样的赐福。神的应许绝不落空，这些话写于三千五百年前，但在今天与当年一样真实。

That's today's story. When we started these Sunday afternoon meetings—the man who encouraged me to take these meetings said to me, "This is the one thing you've got to do. You must not go overtime because people have got things they've got to do. Don't keep them overtime." So it's two-thirty, and my job is to make sure that I let you go. Let's pray.

这就是今天分享的内容。在我们最开始进行下午聚会时，那位鼓励我承担这份服侍的长辈特别叮嘱我说：“有一件事你必须谨记：绝不可超时。因为大家在下午还有许多事情要处理，不要耽误他们的时间。”现在正好两点半，我的任务就是让大家准时解散。我们来祷告。

Lord, we want to thank You. You're a good God. And You've given us many instructions because it's possible, Lord, for us to go the wrong way and end up with terrible consequences. But we want to thank You that if we go Your way, You will bless us with wonderful blessings.

主啊，我们感谢祢，因祢是极其美善的神。祢赐给我们这么多的话语和训诲，因为祢知道，一旦我们走偏，便会招致可怕的后果。但我们更要感谢祢，只要我们遵循祢的道路，祢必将奇妙的福分丰丰满满地赏赐给我们。

Lord, may we be a simple people. May we say, "I choose to believe God, I choose to obey Him." And I'm looking forward to a life and an eternity of marvelous blessings. We thank You that You are God, and we are thankful for all that You are as God. We praise You, and we give thanks in Jesus' name. Amen.

主啊，愿我们都有一颗单纯的心，让我们能说：“我立志相信神，我立志顺服祂。”使我们可以满心期盼那今生及永恒里无限的赐福。我们由衷感谢祢作我们的神，也为着祢的一切神性献上赞美。愿我们将一切的颂赞和感谢都归给主耶稣基督。阿们。