

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

“An Eye for an Eye” (pt 2)
(Exodus 21-23)

Penalties of the Law

Principles of Justice

- *equivalent recompense* – “...eye for eye, tooth for tooth...” (Ex. 21:23-25)
 - replication of the effects of the crime
 - restoration of what was damaged

Penalties of the Law

Principles of Justice

- *These principles expressed in the Law are a reflection of the justice of God*
 - the punishments of the Law foreshadow God’s ultimate justice/judgment
 - the punishments of the Law have their ultimate fulfillment in Christ

Penalties of the Law

Application

Q: How do these punishments of the Law apply to us who live between their fulfillment at the cross and their fulfillment at Jesus’ return?

Penalties of the Law

Application

1. To human authorities/governments
 - *Romans 13:1-7*
 - God has delegated authority to human governments to punish crime
 - Human judicial activity, though imperfect, replicates God’s judicial activity

Penalties of the Law

Application

1. To human authorities/governments
 - Human authority to punish deals with injuries against other human beings, not injuries against God
 - Punishments for polluting Israel’s unique holiness are not directly replicable

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Application

1. To human authorities/governments

- *includes the death penalty for murder*
 - grounded in man being made in God's image (Gen. 9:6)
 - meaning of "bear the sword" (Rom. 13:4)

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Application

2. To individual Christians

- *Matthew 5:38-42*

Matthew 5:17 – Jesus "fulfilled" the Law by proclaiming the standards of kingdom righteousness anticipated by the Law

Penalties of the Law

Application

2. To individual Christians

- *kingdom fulfillment*
 - this law prevented personal revenge
 - it anticipated the kingdom principle of relinquishing our rights and going beyond what is asked as a show of mercy and love

Penalties of the Law

Application

2. To individual Christians

- *kingdom motivation*
 - the fulfillment of perfect justice by Jesus on my behalf that has resulted in my obtaining undeserved mercy from God...
 - enables me to forgo immediate justice, and instead show mercy to others

Penalties of the Law

Conclusion

- *A Christian's obligation:*
 1. To support and uphold just punishments for crime by the state as foreshadows of God's ultimate justice
 2. To not seek personal revenge but give up one's rights in order to show mercy that is found in Christ

Penalties of the Law

Conclusion

- *These are not inconsistent...*
- Just punishments mercifully shadow the coming judgment of God, and Christians' demonstration of mercy shows the reality of the gospel