

An Inheritance that Can't Be Lost

Leviticus 25

March 23, 2014

Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction: Children's Sermon – The Foolish Farmer (Luke 12:13–21)

Key Idea

In God's kingdom, everyone will have enough and no one can lose their inheritance.

II. Sabbath & Jubilee Years

A. Rest for the Land

Leviticus 25:4–7

⁴ but in the *seventh year* there shall be a *Sabbath of solemn rest for the land*, a Sabbath to the Lord. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard.

⁵ You shall *not reap* what grows of itself in your harvest, *or gather* the grapes of your undressed vine. It shall be a year of solemn rest for the land.

⁶ *The Sabbath of the land shall provide food* for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired worker and the sojourner who lives with you, ⁷ and for your cattle and for the wild animals that are in your land: all its yield shall be for food.

Deuteronomy 15:1–2

“At the end of every seven years you shall *grant a release*.² And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbor. He shall not exact it of his neighbor, his brother, because the Lord's release has been proclaimed.

B. Release from Bondage

Leviticus 25:10–12

¹⁰ And you shall consecrate the *fiftieth year*, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its

inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when *each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan*.¹¹ That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of itself nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines.¹² For it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you. You may eat the produce of the field.

C. God's Land, God's People

1. The Right of Redemption

Leviticus 25:23–24

²³ “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, *for the land is mine*. For you are strangers and sojourners with me.²⁴ And in all the country you possess, you shall allow a redemption of the land.

Leviticus 25:42–43 (Cf. v. 55)

⁴² For *they are my servants*, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves.⁴³ You shall not rule over him ruthlessly but shall fear your God.

2. Protection for the Poor

Leviticus 25:37, 39–41

³⁷ You shall not *lend him your money at interest*, nor give him your food for profit.

³⁹ “If your brother becomes poor beside you and *sells himself to you*, you shall not make him serve as a slave:⁴⁰ *he shall be with you as a hired worker* and as a sojourner. He shall serve with you *until the year of the jubilee*.⁴¹ Then he shall go out from you, he and his children with him, and go back to his own clan and return to the possession of his fathers.

3. Protection for the Rich

a. Sabbath Year

It was a time of rest, but this term indicates a time of enjoyed fulfillment more than simply doing nothing. *The Sabbath Year reminded them that the land was not their land but God's*

and that they had the responsibility **to ensure that all people shared in his bounty**. It taught the people that they had to trust the LORD's provisions during the year in which they could not work the fields. And it gave them the opportunity to pursue spiritual, social, and civic obligations more fully.¹

b. The Jubilee Restrictions

It was meant to be a new beginning, a time when all who had failed to maintain their place in society were given a chance to start over and when all who had benefited from such failures released what they had gained.²

D. The Weakness of Law (2 Chron. 36:21)

III. Application: The Real Jubilee

A. Jubilee Meditations

1. God Guides us Now Not by Law but by His Spirit (2 Cor. 8:8–15)
2. How God Provides Care for the Poor
3. The Gospel Protects the Rich
4. All Creation will Enter God's Rest
5. Debt & Slavery: Care for the Poor in this Fallen World

B. Trust in the Lord's Provision (*...not by bread alone*)

Leviticus 25:18–22

¹⁸ “Therefore you shall do my statutes and keep my rules and perform them, and ***then you will dwell in the land securely***.¹⁹ The land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and dwell in it securely.

Matthew 6:31–34

³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them

¹ **Ross, A. P.** (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (454). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

² **Ibid.** (456).

all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. ³⁴ “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

C. God is Our Redeemer!

Luke 4:17–21

¹⁷ And *the scroll of the prophet Isaiah* was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to *proclaim liberty* to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to *proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.*” ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “*Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.*”

Key Idea

In God’s kingdom, everyone will have enough and no one can lose their inheritance.