

PARSHA POINTS

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the Torah portion:

Monday:	Deut. 21:10-23	Right-rulings regarding female captives, inheritance rights of the first-born, and the sentence upon rebellious children
Tuesday:	Deut. 22	Various right-rulings on dress codes, birds' nests, protective roofing, mixtures of seed or fabric, and sexual sins
Wednesday:	Deut. 23	Various right-rulings on exclusions from the assembly, bodily uncleanness, escapes slaves, making loans and vows, and eating from a field
Thursday:	Deut. 24	Various right-rulings on divorce, taking pledges, paying servants, harvesting and more
Friday:	Deut. 25	Various right-rulings on handling disputes, Levirate marriage, just weights and measures, and more; The command to annihilate Amaleq

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will take a look at a collection of various right-rulings which do not have a central theme. Because the content is scattered in thought, we have listed some categories to guide you in your discussions. This parsha also includes some mature content. We have purposely left out all references pertaining to them, leaving it up to the parents to decide whether to teach that information in their home lessons. Now, let's read selected verses from Deuteronomy 22-25.

PEARL SEEKING

Take care of your neighbor

- When you see your neighbor's animal (ox, sheep or donkey) straying away, or find a neighbor's lost item, such as their garment, you are to return it to him *without fail*. Guard it until you can return it to him - 22:1-3; Ex. 23:4
- When you see your neighbor's animal (donkey or ox) fall down along the way, you shall help them *without fail* - 22:4
- Do NOT lend at interest to your brother (silver, food, or whatever), so that Yahweh your Elohim might bless you in all that you put your hand to do in the land which you are entering to possess. To a foreigner you may lend at interest - 23:19-20
- When you come to your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat to the satisfaction of your desire, but do NOT put any in your basket - 23:24



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- When you come to your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the heads with your hand, but do NOT use a sickle on it - 23:25
- Don't take for a pledge someone's lower or upper millstone, for this is the same as taking one's life as a pledge - 24:6
- When you lend your brother a loan, do NOT go into his house to get his pledge. Stand outside and wait for him to bring it to you - 24:10
- If you have loaned to a man who is poor, do NOT sleep with his pledge, but return it to him at sundown, for then he can sleep in his own garment, and shall bless you. And it shall be righteousness to you before Yahweh your Elohim - 24:12-13
- Do NOT oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether a brother or a stranger in your land who is *within your gates*. Give him his wages the same day he worked; do NOT let the sun go down without doing it, so that he does NOT cry out against you to Yahweh, and it shall be sin to you - 24:14-15
- Do NOT twist the right-ruling of a stranger or the fatherless. Remember that you were a slave in Mitsrayim, and that Yahweh your Elohim redeemed you from there. Therefore, I am commanding you to do this word - 24:17-18, 22
- Do NOT take the garment of a widow - 24:17
- When you reap your harvest (katzir) in your field (sadeh), and forget a sheaf (omer) in the field, do NOT go back to get it - 24:19
- When you beat your olive trees (hazayit), do NOT examine the branch behind you - 24:20
- When you gather the grapes of your vineyard (kerem), do NOT glean behind you - 24:21
 - Let it be (24:19-22):
 - ❖ for the stranger (ger)
 - ❖ for the fatherless/orphan (yatom)
 - ❖ for the widow (almanah)
 - ❖ so that Yahweh your Elohim might bless you in all the work of your hands
- You shall NOT have in your bag differing weights, a heavy and a light - 25:13
- You shall NOT have in your house differing measures, a large and a small - 25:14



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- You shall have a perfect and right weight and measure, so that your days are prolonged on the soil which Yahweh your Elohim is giving you. All who are dishonest in their weights and measures are an abomination to Yahweh your Elohim - 25:15-16
- Do NOT loathe (23:7):
 - an Edomite, for he is your brother
 - a Mitsrian, because you were a stranger in his land

Take care of the animals

- When you see a bird's nest along the way, in a tree or on the ground with young ones or eggs and the mother sitting on them, do NOT take the mother with the young - take the young for yourself, but let the mother go *without fail*, so that it might be well with you and that you prolong your days - 22:6-7
- Do NOT plough with an ox and a donkey together - 22:10
- Do NOT muzzle an ox while it is threshing - 25:4

No Mixing Allowed

- A woman is NOT to wear which pertains to a man, nor is a man to wear what pertains to a woman, for whoever does this is an abomination to Yahweh your Elohim - 22:5
- Do NOT sow your vineyard with different kinds of seeds, lest the yield of the seed which you have sown and the fruit of your vineyard become defiled - 22:9; Lev. 19:19
- Do NOT put on a garment of different kinds, of wool and linen together - 22:11; Lev. 19:19

Safety

- When you build a new house, make a protective wall (parapet) on your roof, so that you do NOT bring blood-guilt on your house if one falls from it - 22:8
- In an outbreak of leprosy, diligently guard and do according to what the priests and Lewites teach you, for it is Yahweh who commands them what to do. Remember what Yahweh your Elohim did to Miryam (leprosy) on the way when you came out of Mitsrayim - 24:8-9

Vows

- When you make a vow to Yahweh your Elohim, do NOT delay to pay it for Yahweh your Elohim requires that of you, and it shall be sin in you if you do NOT do it - 23:21
- When you abstain from vowing, it is NOT sin to you - 23:22
- That vow what has gone from your lips you shall guard and do, for you voluntarily made this promise with your mouth - 23:23



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Penalties and Sentences

- These are NOT allowed to enter the assembly/community of Yahweh, even a tenth generation of them shall NOT ever enter the assembly/community of Yahweh (23:2-4):
 - a mamzer (one born from a prohibited union)
 - an Ammonite
 - a Mo'abite
 - ❖ because they did NOT meet you with bread and water on the way when you came out of Mitsrayim
 - ❖ because they hired Bil'am son of Be'or to curse you
- Do NOT loathe (23:7):
 - an Edomite, for he is your brother
 - a Mitsrian, because you were a stranger in his land
- An Edomite or Mitsrian born of the third generation may enter the assembly/community of Yahweh - 23:8
- Remember what Amaleq did to you on the way as you were coming out of Mitsrayim when you were weary and tired and how he attacked your back, all the feeble ones in the rear and did NOT fear Elohim. When Yahweh your Elohim has given you rest from your enemies, in the land which Yahweh your Elohim is giving you to possess as an inheritance, you shall blot out the remembrance of Amaleq from under the heavens - Do NOT forget! - 25:17-19

A visual covenant reminder

- Make tassels on the four corners of your garment - 22:12; Num. 15:38-40



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DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion. This section would be ideal for the Katan B and Gadol students for deeper study.

- What do you think Yahweh was getting at when He commanded man NOT to wear what pertains to a woman and for a woman NOT to wear what pertains to a man? Does this have to do with pretending to be something you're NOT?
- Why do you think Yahweh does NOT want us to mix various seeds or fabric threads?
- Research what it is to make a vow. Find stories in Scripture where vows were made and their ramifications. Read the story of Yiphtah (Jephthah) found in Judges 11:30-40. Research the aspects of a Nazirite vow (Numbers 6:1-21).
- What do you think is the significance of NOT taking a person's lower or upper millstone as a pledge? Could it be that Yahweh wanted to protect a person's livelihood for their family?
- Discuss Yahweh's right-rulings for a mamzer, Ammonite, Mo'abite or Amaleqite. Discuss Yahweh's right-rulings for an Edomite or a Mitsrian.

