

### Trading Places Deuteronomy 21:18-23

- The Bible is all connected.
- It's one big story from beginning to end.
- It's a story that contains other stories.
  
- The Bible is all connected.
- It's a story that gives other stories meaning beyond themselves.
- It's a huge story that ultimately includes us.
  
- The Bible is all connected.
- The parts of the Bible we're reading now will help us make sense of what comes later.
- For example, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy more than any other Old Testament book.
- Paul also refers to it, quoting it 10 times.
  
- The Bible is all connected.
- We're going to sightsee in and around a few connections, beginning in Deuteronomy.

### The Rebellious Son 21:18-21

- This law is for parents who have said to themselves, *"Sometimes I just want to kill that kid!"*
- Take heart.
- You now have biblical justification for the thought, if not the actual killing.
  
- Consider honor killings by fathers today in some very traditional societies.
- Here both father and mother had to agree, in contrast with other ancient cultures.
- Arnold M. Eisen, chancellor of the *Jewish Theological Seminary*, points out that this law, *"seems designed in part to demonstrate that family rebellion threatens the community as a whole, and must be dealt with collectively."*
  
- Unlike in Greek and Roman law, the elders of his city made the final call.
- Parents sometimes also need to be controlled.
- Further, the rabbis put so many stipulations on this law that it doesn't seem it was ever carried out. At least there is no record of it.
  
- God seeks repentance far more than capital punishment.
- The demands of the law are severe and unforgiving.
- The desires of grace are full of the yearnings of love.
- Consider the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32.
  
- Now consider how they looked at Jesus.
  - Luke 5:27-32
- And what Jesus thought of it.
  - Luke 7:31-34

## **Cursed by God 21:22-23**

- Hanging with a noose on gallows wasn't practiced in the ancient Near East.
- After someone was executed, the body might be displayed upon a tree or a large stake:
  - As a proof of death
  - As a warning to others
  - As a further form of disgrace.
- Jesus spoke of his death as being "lifted up" from the earth.
- He seems to be referring to this idea.
  - John 3:14-15
  - John 8:28
  - John 12:32-34
- In the New Testament, the cross is frequently called "a tree."
- The Jews easily connected the disgraceful Roman cross with this passage in Deuteronomy.
  - Acts 5:30-31
  - Acts 10:39
  - Acts 13:28-30
- Joseph of Arimathea asked for the body of Jesus and made sure it was in the tomb that same night. This detail is recorded in all four Gospels.
- This passage was in the background of Joseph's request.

## **Trading Places**

- Bible commentator R.M. Edgar:
- *"What love led him to place himself in such a position! The authorities took him, and in his Father's and mother's presence they did him to death, as if he had been a disobedient and disgraceful Son. Thus did he deliver us from the curse of the Law. We receive honor because he accepted shame."*
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 1 Peter 2:24
- Galatians 3:13
- The Bible is all connected.
- We've seen how some of those parts connect.
- Thanks to Jesus trading places, that huge story ultimately includes us.