

## Sermon: Deuteronomy 23:1-14 Emasculated Men, Moabites and Mercy of God

1. Things that are hard to understand
2. Rotten to the core
3. The simple Glory of Jesus and His Gospel

### Things that are hard to understand

1. God is ok with his word not being totally clear to you.
  - a. Our tendency is to come to the scriptures and expect understand it right away
    - i. Then when we don't understand it we say:
      1. "This is too hard" and we stop reading
      2. "This is archaic there is no way this old book can have anything relevant to say to our modern world" and so we dismiss the hard passages in particular but what we don't realize is that when we choose not to ignore the difficult to understand passages we are paving the way for a dismissal of all the rest.
        - a. It is the clear and straightforward teachings of scripture that ground us in our understanding and it is the wrestling the with the difficult passages our understanding of those simple passages is bolstered and fortified.
        - b. **14**Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. **15**And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, **16**as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. **17**You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. **18**But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
          - i. In this passage we see several things:
            1. First that Paul and Peter are saying the same things and they are in agreement- there is not one message from one apostle and one message from another. They are in harmony

2. Being in harmony though does not mean that they are saying **only** the same thing. Rather Peter points out that Paul writes of other things and those things though not in contradictions to what Peter is saying, are hard to understand
3. Then Peter equates the writings of Paul with the “other scriptures” referring to the OT
4. Next we see that ignorant and unstable people twist both scriptures written by Paul and those of the OT.
5. Lastly a warning is given against being “carried away with the error of lawless people”- so if you are not wrestling with the difficult passages someone else will come along and tell you they have it figured out and you can be lead into error
  - a. So when we need to acknowledge that there are things in the scriptures that are hard to understand not so we can skip them - and in so doing risk being led astray by those who would twist it- but we acknowledge these difficult passages so that we can decide to roll up our sleeves, slug some water and go to work expecting God to bless you by allowing you to But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

#### Rotten to the Core

1. How might this hard passage prove to help us grow in the grace and knowledge of our lord Jesus Christ?
  - a. One way I think this happens is when we recognize that we, by our our conscience decisions and by things that we cannot help, are rotten to the core
    - i. We see this by the choice to become a eunuch - this is a personal decision or a forced reality
    - ii. We see ancestry disqualify some form fellowship - this is not something that a person brings on themselves
    - iii. We see things that come out of are body as proof that we are unclean on the inside- these are physiological things that cannot be helped
2. At least one thing the law is teaching us here is that we are rotten to the core. Everything that comes out of our body is grose
  - a. We have toe jam, eye crusties, ear wax, snot, bad breath, B.O.,

## The simple Glory of Jesus and his gospel

1. God is in the business of redeeming or buying back those who are dirty and defiled because of sin
  - a. Ruth the Moebites
  - b. Rahab the prostitute
  - c. The samaritan woman
  - d. The Roman Centurian
  - e. woman with a discharge of blood
  - f. The ethiopian eunuch
  - g.