

Bible Reading Together during this Covid-19 Shutdown

November 29-December 5: Read Leviticus 26, Gospel of Mark 7

Leviticus 26

The Mosaic Covenant of blessing and curses are found here, and also in Deuteronomy 7. A covenant is a formal contract, in this case, between God and his people, in which God promises to bless if people will obey. But disobedience will lead to divine cursing.

Further Study & Discussion

- Put yourself in a place of a loving parent. Will a loving parent set up a system of reward and punishment for their child? Think about his fully and share your thoughts with others.
- Read again the list of blessings on vv.3-13. Picture God speaking directly to you. How does this make you feel?
- In the list of curses, we see the phrase, “if in spite of this you will not obey me” (v.18, 21, 23, 27). What does this mean? How is that an act of divine love?

Gospel of Mark 7

The religious leaders go head-to-head with Jesus and Jesus’ gloves come off. Afterwards, Jesus takes his healing ministry to the Gentiles as a way to make his point.

Further Study & Discussion

- The Pharisees and scribes profess their love for God. So why does Jesus have problems with them?
- Jesus quotes Isaiah, “This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” How does this apply to our worship experience during this time of shutdown? How can we change this?
- The Gentiles were considered dirty by the Jewish leaders. But Jesus went to them and ministered to them. What does that say about the Jewish leaders, and about God?