**Worship in the Promised Land, Dt. 16, Part 4**

**(Dt. 12:1-28:68)**

**Dr. Thomas M. Strouse**

III. The Practices of Worship (Dt. 14-28): Family Practices

A. Introduction: Family Practices: *“Children of the LORD”* (Dt. 14:1-2) >

B. Concerning Food (14:3-21)

C. Concerning Finances (14:22-29; 15:1-29)

1. Release Debts (15:1-11)

2. Release Debtors (15:12-18)

3. Respect firstlings (15:19-23)

D. Concerning Faith (16:1 ff.)

1. Introduction about Feasts (vv. 1-17)

**2. Introduction about Fairness (vv. 18-22)**

**Concerning Faith (16:1-22)**

**Introduction about Feasts (vv. 1-4, 5-17)**

**I. Passover (1-8)**

**II. Pentecost (9-12)**

**III. Tabernacles (13-17)**

**Introduction about Fairness (vv. 18-22)**

**PREMISE**: The LORD gave the practices for His family which included Food, Finances, Faith, and Fairness. The family can only be blessed if there is a right relationship with the Father!

**I. The Judges (vv. 18-20) > First judge was Moses and then more were added (Dt. 1:9-18; Ex. 18:13 ff.)**

**A. The Provision for Judges (v. 18) > Isa. 1:26**

1. Who appoints the Judges in their gates—the Tribes (v. 18a) > the people look for honest and qualified people. > Jdg. 2:16-18

2. Who appoints the Judges in their gates—The Lord (v. 18b) > The Lord orchestrates the cities, the gates, the people, the choices! > Mt. 16:19; Acts 20:28

**B. The Practice of the Judges (vv. 19-20) > Lord’s justice: Rom. 2:2, 5-6, 11, 16**

1. The judge shall not wrest judgment (v. 19a) > *wrest* (stretch or turn) > Ex. 23:2, 6; Ps. 56:5; II Pet. 3:16.

2. The judge shall not respect persons (v. 19b) > Dt. 1:17; Jam. 2:1 ff.

3. The judge shall not take a gift (v. 19c) > Prov. 17:23; 18:16; 21:14

a. it leads to blindness (v. 19d)

b. it leads to perversion (v. 19e)

4. The judge shall follow justice (v. 20) > Ps. 82:3; 89:14; 119:121; Prov. 21:3; Eccl. 5:8

a. the judge is protected for life (v. 20a)

b. the judge shall inherit the land (v. 20b)

**II. The Judge (vv. 21-22) > Gen. 18:25; II Tim. 4:8**

**A. Don’t Diminish the LORD (v. 21)**

**B. Don’t Deny the LORD (v. 22) For justice in land, people must be right with Lord (Prov. 29:2 ff.). > Rom. 13:1 ff.; Mk. 12:17 > persecution: flee (Acts 14:6 ff.) or hide (Jn. 7:10) > fight government? Lk. 22:36-38 > Isa. 53:12**

**CONCLUSION**: True justice occurs when the nation is right with the Lord; otherwise there is complete injustice. When the world falls apart we joy in Lord and look for His coming!