



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of February 18, 2018

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a “worship discussion” guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Numbers 15:22-41 “Unintentional, High Hand, Remember”

²²“But if you sin unintentionally, and do not observe all these commandments that the LORD has spoken to Moses, ²³all that the LORD has commanded you by Moses, from the day that the LORD gave commandment, and onward throughout your generations, ²⁴then if it was done unintentionally without the knowledge of the congregation, all the congregation shall offer one bull from the herd for a burnt offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD, with its grain offering and its drink offering, according to the rule, and one male goat for a sin offering. ²⁵And the priest shall make atonement for all the congregation of the people of Israel, and they shall be forgiven, because it was a mistake, and they have brought their offering, a food offering to the LORD, and their sin offering before the LORD for their mistake. ²⁶And all the congregation of the people of Israel shall be forgiven, and the stranger who sojourns among them, because the whole population was involved in the mistake.

²⁷“If one person sins unintentionally, he shall offer a female goat a year old for a sin offering. ²⁸And the priest shall make atonement before the LORD for the person who makes a mistake, when he sins unintentionally, to make atonement for him, and he shall be forgiven. ²⁹You shall have one law for him who does anything unintentionally, for him who is native among the people of Israel and for the stranger who sojourns among them.

- **At times, the whole community of Israel sinned unintentionally. What would be an example of this kind of sin where the “whole population is involved in the mistake” (26)?**
- **How might an entire family, group, community or church sin unintentionally today?**
- **Pastoral care for the whole community involves identifying sin, confessing, atoning and assurance of forgiveness. For this reason, we confess our sins and are assured of God’s forgiveness corporately in worship each Sunday. Read this week’s corporate *Confession of Sin* in light of this passage and take time to pray together, concluding with a reading of this week’s *Words of Encouragement*.**

³⁰But the person who does anything with a high hand, whether he is native or a sojourner, reviles the LORD, and that person shall be cut off from among his people. ³¹Because he has despised the word of the LORD and has broken his commandment, that person shall be utterly cut off; his iniquity shall be on him.”

³²While the people of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day. ³³And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation. ³⁴They put him in custody, because it had not been made clear what should be done to him. ³⁵And the LORD said to Moses, “The man shall be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp.” ³⁶And all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him to death with stones, as the LORD commanded Moses.

- **How does God deal with the person who sins deliberately “with a high hand” (30) and despising the word of the LORD (31). Why?**

³⁷The LORD said to Moses, ³⁸“Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner. ³⁹And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the LORD, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after. ⁴⁰So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your God. ⁴¹I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the LORD your God.”

- **God commands Israel to “make tassels”. Why? What was the tassel to bring to mind?**
- **What does the LORD give to the Church to day to bring to mind His commands as ground us in His redemption?**

Sermon Notes

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Numbers 15:22-41](#).

- Chapter 15 of Numbers follows the terrible rebellion of the people of God. It is God's communication to the people of how they will/can continue in a relationship with Him.
- What we see in the second portion of the chapter is what to do with sin.
 - Unintentional sin by the community and the individual
 - High handed sin by the individual
 - All sin is paid for.
 - All sin requires atonement. All sin requires covering, satisfaction, propitiation, the turning away of God's deserved judgment. All sin requires this. In that atonement, that sin is dealt with either through representative substitutionary satisfaction in which God provides a substitute that bears the deserved judgment, or that sin is dealt with in personal punishment.
- The illustration (32-36)
 - It's not the sticks or the fire that is the problem.
 - "For if we go on sinning deliberately, after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and the fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the spirit of grace?" (Hebrews 10:26-29)
- A helpful aid (37-41)
 - The importance of the hem
 - The importance of the color
 - The importance of memory

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
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