



L.E.A.D. TRAINING

LESSON 11 – Let Your “Yes” be “Yes” & Your “No” be “No”

Lesson Objective:

- To explain the meaning of the third commandment and teach the importance of keeping our promises and oaths.

HEBREW WORD OF THE WEEK

Strong's h7723. שָׁוְיָ -shav

Emptiness, vanity, false, worthless, common, useless, desolating

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Exodus 20:7

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”

QUESTION:

- What does it mean to “take the name of the LORD your God in vain?” Does it mean you shouldn’t **curse** using his name? If not, what does it mean?

Discuss

Let’s take a look at some of the scriptures throughout the Bible that might help us to answer this question.

READ:

Proverbs 20:25

It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, and afterward to reconsider his vows.

Proverbs 25:14

Whoever falsely boasts of giving, is like clouds and wind without rain.

Ecclesiastes 5:2-5

² *Do not be rash with your mouth,
And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God.
For God is in heaven, and you on earth;
Therefore let your words be few.*
³ *For a dream comes through much activity,
And a fool's voice is known by his many words.*
⁴ *When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it;
For He has no pleasure in fools.
Pay what you have vowed—*
⁵ *Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.*

Deuteronomy 23:21

*"When you make a vow to the LORD your God,
you shall not delay to pay it; for the LORD
your God will surely require it of you, and it
would be sin to you."*

Numbers 30:2

*"If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or
swears an oath to bind himself by some
agreement, he shall not break his word; he
shall do according to all that proceeds out of
his mouth."*



Matthew 5:33-37

³³ *Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.'* ³⁴ *But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."*

Psalms 56:12-13

¹² *"Vows made to You are binding upon me, O God;
I will render praises to You,
¹³ For You have delivered my soul from death.
Have You not kept my feet from falling,
That I may walk before God
In the light of the living?"*

QUESTION:

How is rendering praises to God help us keep our vows to Him?

ANSWER:

By staying in a constant position of praise, our own mind, will and emotions are diminished. We are fully concentrated on Him.

Leviticus 19:12

“And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.”

BACK TO OUR VERSE OF THE DAY**Exodus 20:7**

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”

- The word “take” in this verse is the Hebrew word נָסָא *nasa*, which means “to lift up, regard, respect, high, etc.”
- The word “vain,” means to “make common or false.”

QUESTION:

Now that we know this, what is the third commandment really saying?

Let’s read it how it should really be interpreted, based on the Hebrew:

Exodus 20:7

“You should not make God’s name void or common by making an oath in His name and not keep it. For the LORD will hold him accountable for making His name worthless.”

And if we want a more amplified version, this is what it might look like:

Exodus 20:7

“You should not make a promise or an oath and attach God’s name to it unless you plan to keep it. Nor should you put His name out there by claiming you follow Him, but in reality, you represent yourself and your own selfish motives by not following through with what you promised Him and others. In doing so, you will be making His name worthless and no different than anyone else’s name. Therefore, it is better that you don’t make a single promise to God or your neighbor rather than break your word.”

QUESTION:

- Are you known for keeping your word with others?
- What does it mean to keep your word to Yah?

- What do you do if you make a promise to someone and later realize that you can't keep it?

ANSWER:

You go to that person and let them know the situation and ask them if you can either alter the agreement or be let out of it completely. If they say no, then you should keep that vow and be more careful next time when making such an agreement.

CONCLUDING VERSE

2 Timothy 2:13

*"If we are faithless,
He remains faithful;
He cannot deny Himself."*

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

We should be very careful of how and to whom we make agreements. Our word is backed by our very nature. When we give someone our signature, we are giving them the **SIGN** of our **NATURE**. It is what represents who we are. Because we are representatives of Christ, the sign of our nature should be the sign of His nature. ***That sign is the sign of the cross, a complete crucifixion of the flesh for the glory of God.***

Jim Staley

AGREEMENTS

