

Veritas Class
Covenant Righteousness for the Glory of God
February 1, 2015
Deuteronomy 23:24–24:5

A. Safeguarding the Trust of Neighbors (23:24–25)

23:25[24]	23:26[25]
When you enter the vineyard of your neighbor	When you enter the standing grain of your neighbor
You may eat grapes until your appetite is satisfied	You may pluck the heads with your hands
But you may not put any into your basket.	But you may not wield a sickle against your neighbor's standing grain.

1. Assumptions of the Text
 - a. The people are in the land of Canaan.
 - b. The economy is predominantly agrarian.
 - c. The land has been surveyed and divided among the Israelites, without a regular system of road allowances every mile.
 - d. When people went out to the fields or to visit the next village walking paths crossed other peoples' land.
 - e. While specific plots were allocated (*hālak*) to individual families, the land was the nation's possession (*naḥālā*).
 - f. Ultimately the land belonged to YHWH.
2. Relevance of the Text for Us
 - a. The call for generosity and looking out for the next person.
 - b. Jesus' treatment of this principle: Matt 12:1–8; Mark 2:23–28; Luke 6:1–5

B. Safeguarding the Well-being of Women in Difficult Marital Situations (24:1–5)

Introduction

- a. The Structure of Chapter 24
 - b. The Links between vv. 1–4 and v. 5
1. Safeguarding a Woman in the Context of Divorce (vv. 1–4)

Introduction

 - a. The Importance of this Text
 - b. The Context of this Text

c. The Traditional Interpretation of this Text

P_{1a} **When** a man takes a woman
P_{1b} and marries her,
P_{2a} **if** she finds no favor in his eyes
 because he has found some indecency in her,
A_{1a} **then** he may/must write her a certificate of divorce
A_{1b} and he may/must put it in her hand
A_{1c} and he may/must send her out of his house.
P_{2b} **If** she departs out of his house,
P_{2b} and if she goes
P_{2b} and if she becomes another man's wife,
P_{3aα} and if the latter man hates her
P_{3aβ} and if he writes her a certificate of divorce
P_{3aγ} and if he puts it in her hand
P_{3aδ} and if he sends her out of his house,
P_{3b} **or if** the latter man dies, who took her to be his wife,
A_{1d} **then** her former husband, who sent her away,
 may not take her again to be his wife,
 after she has been declared defiled,
M₁ For that is an abomination before YHWH,
M₂ And you shall not bring sin upon the land
 that YHWH your God is giving you as a grant.

Five Problems with this Interpretation:

d. An Alternative Interpretation

The Problem	If a man takes a woman, and marries her, but if she does not find favor in his eyes, because he has discovered in her a defect,
The Prevailing Practice	and he writes for her a certificate of divorce and he puts [it] into her hand, and he releases her from his house,
The Complication	and [if] she departs from his house, and she goes, and becomes the wife of another man, but the latter man rejects her, and he writes for her a certificate of divorce, and he puts [it] into her hand, and he releases her from his house, or if the latter man, who took her to be his own wife, dies,
The Proscription	the first husband, who released her, is not permitted to return to take her to be his wife after she has been declared defiled,
The Rationale	because that would be an abomination before YHWH; You shall not contaminate the land, that YHWH your God is giving you as a grant.