

Maximising Redemption: Need for Refuges

Do this so that innocent blood will not be shed in your land... so that you will not be guilty of bloodshed.

See Deuteronomy 19:10

The Need for Refuges

Thus there is a difference between premeditated sin and sin from spontaneity. This is consistent with the Old Testament, especially in [Deuteronomy 19](#) where God recommends systems such as cities of refuge to allow people to flee pending a fair hearing or to abide pending passage of key event (e.g. natural death of pertinent high priest). A lot of Deuteronomy was written to stop the Jews being annihilated by waves of feudal deaths or crimes of passion. The bible also suggests the scale should be commensurate with the size of God's kingdom.

If the LORD your God enlarges your territory, as he promised on oath to your forefathers, and gives you the whole land he promised them, because you carefully follow all these laws I command you today—to love the LORD your God and to walk always in his ways—then you are to set aside... more cities. Do this so that innocent blood will not be shed in your land, which the LORD your God is giving you as your inheritance, and so that you will not be guilty of bloodshed. (Deuteronomy 19:8-10)

However, even the cities of refuge do not protect the premeditated murderer ([Deuteronomy 19:13](#)). That said, everyone accused is to be given a fair trial and false witnesses are to be punished ([Deuteronomy 19:15-21](#)). As a cautionary note, Deuteronomy is softened by Jesus' incarnation and atoning sacrifice. As Jesus himself said:

As you are going with your adversary to the magistrate, try hard to be reconciled to him on the way, or he may drag you off to the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.”(Luke 12:58-59)

There is also the question guilt of sin as a result of one's training or experience e.g. <http://www.faqs.org/faqs/judaism/FAQ/06-Jewish-Thought/section-20.html>, which includes:

In Judaism there is the notion of someone who is ketinok shenishba -- like a child who was taken captive and raised by highway robbers. Such a child couldn't be held accountable for growing up to be a criminal. As a general principle, a child raised in a home where some sin was considered normal and accepted behavior isn't held accountable by G-d, the One Who put him in that home for following along. Basically, G-d judges people by taking into account what He gave that person to work with. If it was harder for that person to realize that some behavior is wrong, then G-d will take that into account and judge accordingly.

This does not mean that we should all throw our hands up in the air and embrace sin because our parents consider it normal. However, for those who have been born into

inauspicious circumstances (which include most of humanity at this point in history); we can choose to show some leniency as we move to rebuild godly healthy homes and societies.

There is also a need to recognize that there are many souls suffering depression, post-trauma shock syndrome (a child watching their mother being assaulted is no less traumatic than rescuing someone from a fire), attention disorders. Because the family units have become so disjointed and disrespected, many souls now have difficulties engaging in relationships with themselves, let alone their spouse or children, let alone God.

And while we are on the subject of premeditated sin; this is one conundrum that again demonstrate that relying on the letter of the law on overlooking the intent of the law. In another of those many "coincidences" my first full time job included helping prepare the notes for my boss' spouse to be admitted to an international Obstetric and Gynecological Society. For example, there are sterile women who were once the revered Sunday school teachers or foster mothers who are now shunned in our society. Testosterone females are souls who are genetically male but God in His wisdom deemed that their bodies mature into the female form. I have read of one tragic example in the US where an intolerant church caused the breakdown of a family (because it was homosexuality XY XY marriage, even though there were adopted children), and then went on to tell the testosterone female she was not allowed to get involved with women either because she had the female form.

Thus this poor soul, through no contrivance or desire of her own has been placed in a "nowhere" land, where she has been deprived on intimacy from her mate and children and effectively told that she is not entitled to an emotionally intimate relationship with anyone else either. It makes one wonder what is happens to souls who are not living full-time as one of God's servant (e.g. priest, monk, nun, acolyte) or within home that is blessed with God's grace, especially when such souls are cast out or refused such sanctuary by selfish legalistic gate keepers.

In these days of medical developments and litigation, doctors now know and reveal things that would previously have been unstated. There is a sadness in telling someone that they have been diagnosed with an obscure disease that means they are going to experience a lot of pain and have a shortened life span (as little as a century ago many diseases went undiagnosed and people lived out their lives blissfully unaware of the pain they were going to experience in 20 years time).