

March 19 Answers

- 1) Moses' Second Sermon — Part 2c (Deut 19–22: Specific covenant obligations). Moses continued to explain God's covenant laws in detail so the people would know how to live a holy life that was pleasing to Him. God set apart certain cities in Israel as a **refuge** for those who had killed someone by **accident** (Deut 19:5). Yet God also commanded that **murderers** be put to death: "You shall not pity him" (Deut 19:13). This shows us that God wants the wicked **punished** and the innocent **protected**. A just society will be careful to do both. God's laws were designed to teach the people how to **love** their neighbor. For example, the law related to caring for a neighbor's lost animal (Deut 22:1–4) teaches us that loving our neighbor means: (a) not **ignoring** the potential loss or destruction of their private property, (b) **caring** for their lost property until it is returned, and (c) not ignoring them when they're **struggling** with their vehicle (donkey) or their tractor (ox). The law requiring a railing on the roof of a house (Deut 22:8) teaches us that loving our neighbor means: (a) being concerned about their **safety**, (b) going out of our way to **protect** them when they are on or near our property, and (c) ensuring our property is **designed** with the safety of others in mind. There are so many practical principles in God's laws if we will just take the time to look for them!