

March 20 Answers

- 1) Moses' Second Sermon — Part 2d (Deut 23–26: Specific covenant obligations). Moses completed his overview of God's covenant laws, and he urged the people: "You shall therefore be careful to **do** them with all your heart and with all your soul" (Deut 26:16; cf. Deut 6:5). The case law concerning divorce and remarriage teaches us that loving our spouse means: (1) upholding God's intention for a man and woman to be **permanently** united in marriage, (2) recognizing how **serious** divorce is, for it **tears** apart what God has joined together, and (3) pursuing **reconciliation** unless the other party remarries (cf. Matt 5:31–32; 19:3–9; Mark 10:2–9). The laws concerning security for loans teach us that loving our neighbor means: (a) never depriving them of the things they need for their **livelihood**, (b) respecting their privacy and **dignity** as a fellow human being, (c) going out of our way to return their **pledge** if it is needed to provide warmth or shelter. The law requiring capital punishment for kidnapping someone and selling them into slavery shows how serious God is about respecting the **freedom** of others (Deut 24:7). God kept reminding the Israelites that they had been **enslaved** in Egypt, and He wanted this memory to **motivate** them to be kind and loving to those less fortunate than themselves.