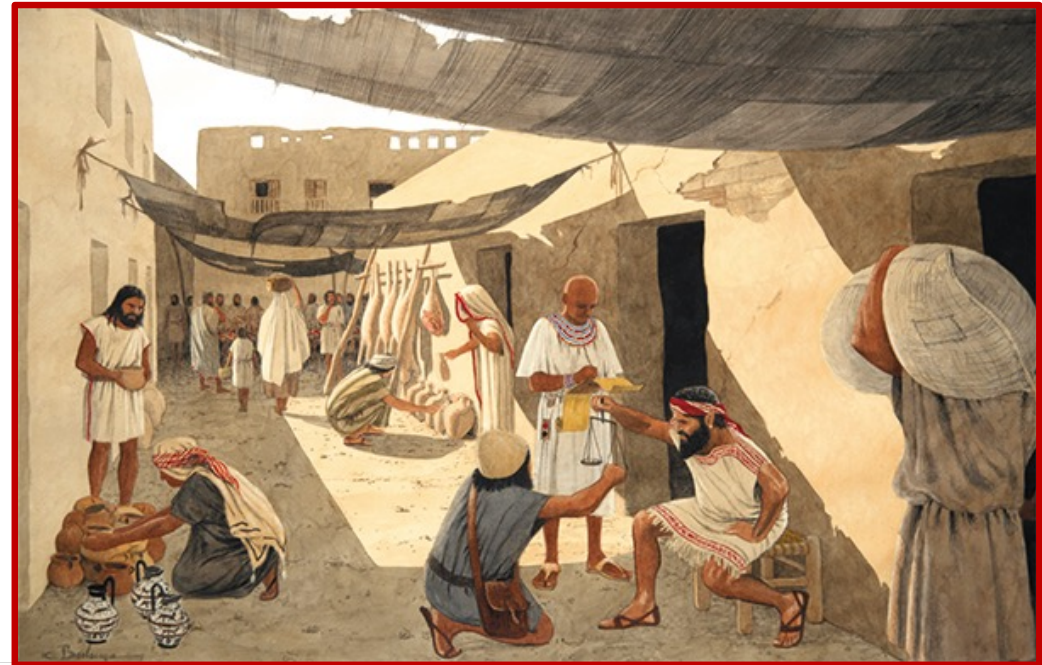

Important Bible Customs



Introduction

□ Frequent references

- Previous sermons on sheep, sermons on the “whole armor” of God, parables of the Sower, etc.

□ Meaning may be lost to time

□ Some curiosities, but many important

- Better understanding of the historical context
- Make proper application if related to our spiritual obedience



Greeting & Hospitality

□ Foot washing

- Done by a servant to show honor - Gen. 18:4; John 13

□ Greeting with a kiss

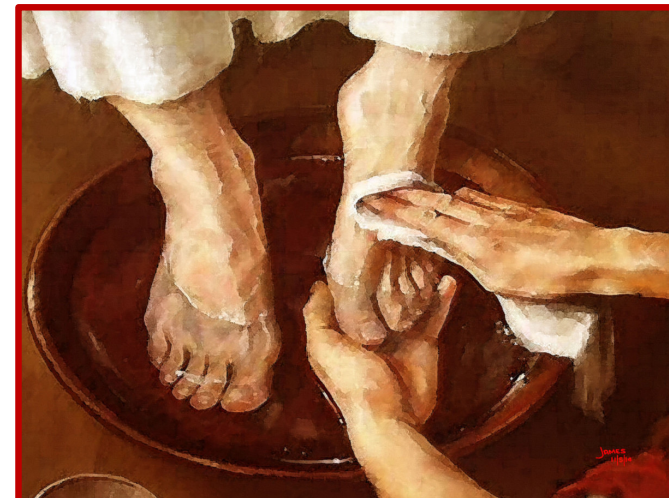
- Common in the Middle East then and now - Luke 7

□ Anointing a guest's head with oil - Luke 7

□ Bowing - Gen. 18:2; 19:1; Gen. 33:3, 6

□ Relevance

- Rom. 12:13 *“distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.”*
- 1 Pet. 4:9 *“Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.”*
- Heb. 13:2 *“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have entertained angels.”*



Clothing

- Inner/outer robes, sandals
- Priests with “breeches” (KJV), trousers (NKJV) - Ex. 28:42
- “Gird loins” - 2 Kings 4:29; Job 38:3
 - Use belt “girdle” to shorten robe to work/walk quickly
- Veils
 - - Gen. 24:65 Rebecca; Ex. 34:35 Moses; Sng. 5:7; 1 Cor. 11 Female prophets
- Relevance
 - Luke 12:35; 1 Pet 1:13 “Gird loins of mind”
 - 1 Cor. 11:3 Headship/authority God-Christ-man-woman



Expressions of Distress

□ Rending of garments

- Grief at death - Gen. 37:33-34; 2 Sam. 1:11-12; Job 1:20
- False doctrine - Matt. 26:65; Acts 14:14

□ Wearing sackcloth, ashes, dust on head

- Mourning - Gen. 37:34 Jacob; 1 Kings 21:27 Ahab; Est. 4:2 Mordecai
- Repentance - Jonah 3:6 Nineveh; Matt. 11:21

□ Relevance

- Rom 12:15 *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”*
- Matt. 3:8 *“Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,”*



Discipline & Punishment

- Whipping/lashes - Deut. 25:2-3; 2 Cor. 11:24
- Execution
 - Stoning Lev. 24:23; Acts 7:57-59; Acts 14:19, Beheading Rev. 20:4, Crucifixion Matt. 27
- Relevance
 - Suffering of Jesus - Phil. 2:8 *"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."*
 - Church discipline - 1 Cor. 5
 - Self-discipline - 1 Cor. 9:24-27
"But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."



Food

- Bread essential “daily bread”
 - Leaven common except for religious use - Ex. 12; Lev. 2:11
- Clean/unclean meat/animals - Lev. 11
- Sweets limited to honey/honeycomb - Judg. 14:18
- Meat sacrificed to idols & sold in the marketplace
- Relevance
 - God’s word - essential like bread Matt. 4:4, sweeter than honey Psa. 19:10; 119:103
 - Jesus, the bread of life - John 6:35
 - Kingdom of heaven like leaven - Matt. 13:33
 - False doctrine like leaven - Matt. 16:11
 - Conscience - 1 Cor. 8:4-13; Rom. 14



Millstone

- ❑ Pluck/eat grain fresh or roasted - Lev. 23:14; 2 Kings 4:42; Matt. 12:1
- ❑ Ground into flour
 - Via smaller hand-mill - Ex. 11:5; Job 31:10; Matt. 24:41
 - Via larger animal-mill - Matt. 18:6
- ❑ Relevance
 - Multiple references



Millstone - Relevance

- Sympathy dealing with others, esp. the poor
 - Not to be taken in pledge - Deut. 24:6
 - *No man shall take the lower or the upper millstone in pledge, for he takes one's living in pledge*
 - No millstone - no flour - no bread
 - Ditto garment - Ex. 22:26-27
 - *If you ever take your neighbor's garment as a pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down. For that is his only covering, it is his garment for his skin. What will he sleep in? And it will be that when he cries to Me, I will hear, for I am gracious*
 - Gal. 5:14
 - *For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'* ”
 - Matt. 7:12
 - *Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

Millstone - Relevance


□ Likened to a hard heart

- Job 41:24 “Leviathan”
 - *“His heart is as hard as stone, even as hard as the lower millstone”*
- Eph. 4:18
 - *“They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart”*
- Heb. 3:13-15
 - *“But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ... While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.”*



Millstone - Relevance

- The seriousness of offending others.
 - Matt. 18:6-7; Mark 9; Luke 17
 - *Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!*
 - Greek for larger animal-powered millstone
 - No way to extricate oneself, and no way to overcome the weight of the stone.
 - Love one another - John 13:34; Rom. 13:8; 1 Thes. 4:9



A new command I give you:
Love one another. As I have
loved you, so you must love one
another. By this everyone will
know that you are my disciples,
if you love one another.

—
John 13:34-35

And Many Others ...

- *“Muzzle not the ox”*
- *“Take my yoke on you”*
- *“... puts his hand to the plow and looks back”*
- *“... compels you to walk one mile”*
- *“... reclined at the table”*, bowl, sop (KJV)
- Dowry, betrothals, marriage feasts
- Lamps, oil, wicks, and lampstands
- Shekels, minas, talents, mites, denarii, drachma,
- Logs, ephahs, hins, homers, firkins
- Cubits, furlongs, fathoms



Conclusion

- ❑ The Bible - a historical document with ancient manners, customs, measures, etc.
 - Across 1000's of years with multiple societies & cultures
- ❑ Importance of study and good study aids
- ❑ For better insight and prudent application in our modern times



