

Deuteronomy 24:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thou dost lend thy brother any thing, thou shalt not go into his house to fetch his pledge.

Analysis

When thou dost lend thy brother any thing, thou shalt not go into his house to fetch his pledge. This law protects debtor dignity by preventing creditors from entering homes to seize collateral. The creditor must wait outside while the debtor brings the pledge, preserving privacy and preventing humiliation.

The prohibition thou shalt not go into his house establishes boundaries that economic relationships must not cross. Even legitimate debt collection must respect personal space and dignity. Creditors' rights do not extend to violating debtors' homes.

This demonstrates that economic justice includes procedural protections, not just substantive fairness. How debts are collected matters as much as whether they are collected. Preserving human dignity in economic transactions reflects God's concern for the whole person.

Reformed theology affirms that all relationships, including economic ones, must honor human dignity as image-bearers. No economic advantage justifies treating people degradingly.

Historical Context

Ancient creditors often seized collateral forcibly, humiliating debtors and asserting dominance. This law prevented such displays of power, requiring respect even in

asymmetrical economic relationships.

The principle protected the poor from degradation while still permitting legitimate debt collection and collateral security.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does prohibition against entering the debtor's house teach about dignity in economic relationships?
2. How do procedural protections demonstrate that how we collect debts matters?
3. Why must economic relationships respect personal boundaries and privacy?
4. What does this teach about balancing creditor rights with debtor dignity?
5. How might contemporary debt collection practices violate or uphold these principles?

Interlinear Text

לֹא מֵא וְמֵה מִשׁ אֶת בָּרוּךְ תַּשְׁלַח הַ
H3808 any H3972 H4859 H7453 H5388 When thou dost lend thy brother thing

עֲבָדָךְ תַּעֲבֹד אֶל בֵּית וְלֹא בָּתְּחַנֵּן תַּ�ְלַבְּדָךְ
H5667 H5670 H1004 H413 H935 thou shalt not go into his house to fetch his pledge

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 22:27 (Parallel theme): For that is his covering only, it is his raiment for his skin: wherein shall he sleep? and it shall come to pass, when he crieth unto me, that I will hear; for I am gracious.

Deuteronomy 15:8 (Parallel theme): But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth.

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