

Genesis 4:19 The Problem with Lamech

Lamech had some crazy ideas. He was a man born out of Cain's line. If you pay close attention to the genealogies in the Bible, you notice some things. You'll notice that Cain's genealogy is filled with barbaric and carnal minded people as opposed to Seth's line where we see people like Noah and Enoch. Lamech, true to the family tradition, knew what God wanted him to do but invented his own way instead.

When God instituted marriage, He gave the example of one man, one woman, leaving their parents and cleaving to each other. One plus one equals one. It doesn't work in math class, but it works in marriage. Lamech decides he is going to have two wives. Doing this, he rejects God's will and lays the groundwork for that behavior in both pagan and religious circles. There have been a lot of cultures and people who adopted polygamy. They marry for politics, money and pride/pleasure. Women become more like property and the man more like a slave owner than a husband. He had no right to change God's plan, but he did anyway. It's easy to see this extreme example of rebellion and think we could never do anything like that, however, there are a lot of Christians today who think they can make themselves an exemption to God's will.

God gives us our church to learn, grow, get corrected and be challenged by the preaching of the Bible. We are told to make sure we are there and that it's wrong to forsake assembly with them. Yet so many will miss church for any reason necessary. He gives us the Bible and tells us to live our lives after what it says, and many have never even read it cover to cover. Which if you have never read the Bible in its entirety, I want you to cancel your YouTube, Netflix and Disney+ subscriptions, delete all your entertainment apps on your phone and leave it all like that until you have. You don't want to be the person who shows up to Heaven, dripping with the grace of God yet never having read the Bible. Going back to my point, you don't have to be doing something as wild as having multiple spouses to anger God.

Lamech announces to his family that he has killed a man. In context it seems as though it might have been out of self-defense. We weren't there so it is hard to say for sure which one it is. Lamech then says something odd. He concluded that since Cain committed murder, and God said He would avenge Cain seven-fold if anyone killed him, that God would do the same for him but more. Notice how God never said this. His math makes terrible sense. Lamech not only rejected God's will, but he also had it in his mind that he could decide what God was going to do. While Cain committed 1st degree murder, he thought that God would give more protection seeing he did it out of self-defense. I have seen a lot of people fail in this way too. They do whatever they want and expect God's protection and blessing. It almost always sounds the same way. "I prayed about it, and I have peace!". If you break God's commandments, if you know He doesn't want you to do something and you decide to do it anyway, God isn't going to give you peace over it. If you have peace, it's the peace that comes from giving yourself what you want not peace from God. You can't demand God's protection when you are in the wrong. You can repent, or you can get corrected until you repent, but you can't sin and expect God to bless it.

Conclusion: Don't speak on God's behalf. We have a hard enough time staying in obedience, we're nowhere near being able to speak for the Lord. It's best we just stick to scripture and the keeping of it.