

City of Refuge
12-8-13

I. Numbers 35:16-25 –

- A. If an Israelite, killed someone by accident:
 - 1. Penalty for murder -- death (by stoning).
 - 2. BLOOD AVENGER vs Manslayer – he had to remain for the time of the High Priest.
 - 3. Know that avenger is going to slay (His duty).
 - 4. City of refuge – protected by the Law and the People fair hearing was made and the Blood avenger placated

II. Refuge for Israel

- A. Cities of Refuge: Numbers 35:6-25; Joshua 20
- B. The Hope of the Israelites: A City of Refuge: Isaiah 4.2-6

II. We are a City of Refuge

- A. We have sought (and are seeking) refuge! Hebrews 6.18
- B. We need to be a place of refuge for one another!
- C. Is this true? Do we make it true?
 - 1. Love One Another Earnestly:
 - 2. We need to help each other in times of need!
 - 3. We don't seek refuge when things are going well! Only in times of distress, difficulty.
 - 4. Why when we are suffering, do we feel like we cannot do it with one another?
 - 5. Why do we feel it is inappropriate to cry, or to ask for help?
 - 6. Are we really a people of refuge?
 - 7. We need to be a place of refuge for one another.
- D. We need to be a place of refuge for anyone and everyone! Isaiah 4.2-6; Luke 15.11-32
 - 1. Do we provide shelter from storm, or add to the storm?
 - 2. Do we accept them in for a moment, and then reject?
 - 3. The church needs to be a place of refuge for people!
 - a. The congregation shall rescue and restore: Numbers 35.24-25
 - b. Notice two ways of reacting to those who return to us: Luke 15.11-32
 - 1) Like the Father: Luke 15.20-23
 - 2) Or like the older brother: Luke 15.25-32

IV. Conclusion

- A. If we are truly going to love one another
 - 1. See ourselves as a body and a family and a flock
 - 2. And as a people of refuge
 - a. people who have sought refuge
 - b. people who welcome all who need refuge
- B. What refuge can we provide for you if you are not in Christ?
 - 1. Only what God has provided: The gift of His Son
 - 2. Sins washed.