You Shall Not Curse the Deaf Man

Lev. 19:14

Intro. A. Our text is brief.

B. On several counts it has little to commend itself.

1. In the old Testament.

2. One of oldest sentences on record.

3. From Leviticus, a dry and monotonous book of ancient regulations. How many have upon some occasion, prompted by Easter resolve, determined to read Bible thru, only to have resolution dashed against deadly irrelevance of this book.

C. And yet have worthy precedent for use of this book and chapter. "you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

D. Impossible now to recover the reason for this striking command.

I 1. Perhaps it was to check that coarse and ugly sense of humor that makes fun of the handicapped.

a. See boys on corner curse deaf, spit block before blind

b. One of oldest forms of entertainment - the circus. Laugh a midget, the fat, the stutterer, dimwit, epileptic.

c. I wish I could say we have moved past this.

2. Perhaps to prohibit taking advantage of those unable to handle well their own affairs. The weak, the feeble, ill, ignorant - these are the exploited. Not to be so among people of God.

3. Perhaps to check impatience with the hard of hearing, impatient with old, slow, the dull.

4. These cared for by the instruction of God

II But it is Evident That Herein Lies the Nature + Source of the Moral Standard for God's People.

A. Don't curse a deaf man! Why? He can't hear; he not harmed.

B. Because the Standard of Conduct for the People of God is always Determined by What we are, not the condition, or behavior of others.

Picture young lady offering to indulge; But he was deaf.

1. One moral standard for friend and foe, black white, rich poor.
2. "But he may deceive me"; "but he was unkind to me"; "but he hasn't spoken to me"; but he hurt me."
3. What determines your w[illegible] to people?
4. When you walk into a room, join a group, move to a corner, take standard with you.
5. But some propose the strange logic- If hurts no one else, only me, see no harm.

What are the pertinent ?'s in setting standard?

1. Will any one else know?
2. What is the condition, character of the person? But you - God + God - 2 too many.
3. If no one knows but me, why wrong. Does it hurt you? Parents? Mother? Son? Partner? Wife? Children? No such thing as me one but myself.

C. The One Question pertinent is what is the Nature + Character of your God?

1. For I am your God.
2. Standard set not by expedients, time, place, others, but God.
3. Here see right + wrong.
4. What and error it is to determine on other grounds.
5. Ch. living not hide + seek with preachers playing on edge of wrong, doing favorably compared with others.
6. Called to reflect nature of God.
7. "Because this is way God is". Mt. 5. 1 Peter.
8. Can't look on sun yet see reflected. Can't look on God yet see reflected.