

**BIBLE**

**PARALLEL**

**LINES**

### **Parallel lines Pt.9: The Word**

There is a direct parallel line here between Jesus' teachings and Leviticus 24. John opens his gospel by declaring Jesus is the word. What word? They like to say that Jesus embodies the word of God. He is everything it declares and teaches. Yet, I feel that John knew more about what he was thinking. He had spent so much time with Jesus. Have you ever been with someone and thought "wow!" they were amazing. Every word and action that Jesus did and said bled God. I feel that Jesus was literally the word of God come to life.

Do you represent your family line well? Are you a good representation of your mother and father? I believe that Jesus was everything His Father is. Colossians 1:16 *"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."* Paul could see it. John wrote about it. Jesus is the word!

Now with that said, the parallel lines point from Jesus to Leviticus. It's also possible the Levitical verses point to Jesus. In Leviticus 24, verses 3-4 we have references to the Tent of Meeting lamps being lit continually. The light in the tent of God must never go out. During the 1988, Calgary Olympics, they loved to pass the Olympic torch around and we were able to light a candle with Olympic flame. I then took it home and lit my furnace with that flame. We had Olympic heat! The Israelites were to keep the beacon of Hope for the world alive within the camp. The light of God must always shine.

Let's follow a line from Leviticus to Matthew 5:14 *“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”* Jesus knew how to keep God alive in humans. It's so interesting that John called Jesus the word. For three years (and more) Jesus shared that word with people. He embodied the kingdom of heaven on earth. Fishermen and prostitutes saw the light and followed him. Thousands pressed on Jesus to have some of this light. Everyone who is touched by the light of Jesus is never the same again. Then we find Jesus saying in John 8:12 *“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

This is the gospel story. The word of God shone its light upon people. Moses met God and was so bright that he had to wear a veil. Yet, Jesus is telling us all to share the light. Why? John 1:5 says *“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”* How to save the earth? How to fix the mess of evil, murder, lies, and sexual misconduct? Let the light of God in those dark places.

Leviticus 24 also has another famous line to Jesus. Verse 5-6 *“Take the finest flour and bake twelve loaves of bread, using two-tenths of an ephah for each loaf. 6 Arrange them in two stacks, six in each stack, on the table of pure gold before the Lord.”* Jesus says in John 6:48 *“I am the bread of life.”* Ezekiel 3:3 *“Then he said to me, “Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.” So, I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.”* There is something special about feasting on God's word.

In the Bible it's controversial. Some of the disciples left Jesus because He asked them to eat and drink His blood and flesh. They thought Jesus meant it literally. Those disciples of John just did not get Jesus. Jesus then asked the remaining disciples if they will leave too. They replied *“where will we go?”* The bread of heaven came down to nourish the Israelites.

God had supplied all they needed. Jesus was saying the same thing. Feast on His words.

Drink of the same Spirit He does. Psalm 119:103 *“How sweet are Your words to my taste-- sweeter than honey in my mouth!”*

Leviticus 24:14 *“Take the blasphemer outside the camp. All those who heard him are to lay their hands on his head, and the entire assembly is to stone him.”* There are more verses like this. Jesus, in John 8, comes upon a woman about to be stoned for adultery. There are two lines that show the intent of God towards sin. *“Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”* And, *“Then neither do I condemn you,”* Jesus declared. *“Go now and leave your life of sin.”* We are commanded by God to deal with sin. However, Jesus puts a twist on it. He knows that the men accusing her are sinners too. One by one they walk away from her because their sins were written in the dust by Jesus. I heard a pastor say he wrote *“forgiven”* in the dust for each of them. Then Jesus forgave her. Jesus embodies the word of God.

Jesus then goes on to talk about an eye for an eye and passing judgment. Leviticus 24 talks about the same things. The law of God demanded payment for sin. Sometimes it was stoning. Jesus is the payment for sin, but he demands forgiveness which is probably harder than stoning. God meant business in the Old Testament teachings, laws, and commands. Jesus is parallel with those teachings. He is the whole word of God.

John 14:6 *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*