

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Drawn from “You May Not Ignore It,” A Sermon on Deut 22:1-4

Pastor Nicoletti @ Faith Pres Tacoma

11/30/25 AM

1. This week’s sermon text commands us to return a lost item to its owner. Talk about a noteworthy time that someone returned a valuable, lost item to you OR a time that you returned a valuable, lost item to someone else.
2. Look again at the three commands not to “ignore” the lost or fallen work animals of your neighbor. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti suggested that the Hebrew here could also be translated as “you shall not hide yourself.” What nuances might this alternate translation add to understanding of the passage, and why does Moses repeat this command three times?
3. Imagine that you are talking with a Christian who heard Pastor Nicoletti’s sermon but strongly disagreed with the way he interpreted and applied the passage. He says, “This section of Deuteronomy is **strictly** and **only** about **property**, **not** about **people**. We need to stick to the **literal** meaning of the text, which is about **work animals**. Animals **aren’t** people. It’s an error of interpretation to equate animals and people.” How would you respond? Use other passages of Scripture in your response.
4. What does the sermon text imply about the Biblical perspective on private property, capital assets, and economic tools? Talk about the political and economic implications of this passage.
5. In Matthew 13:44, Jesus implicitly commends a man for concealing and acquiring hidden treasure. On its face, this seems to be the opposite of the ethic commended here in Deut 22, where a man is required to **return** possessions to their owners. How can we make sense of this apparent contradiction?

