

## Boiled in Mother's Milk

Israel under Moses could not boil a kid in its mother's milk. (Exodus 23:19) This law occurs no less than three times. God certainly required Israel to be humane to their animals. They had to help an over-burdened donkey, v. 5, and leave food for the wild animals in the sabbatical years, v. 11. The Sabbath day rest was "that thine ox and thine ass may rest...", v. 12. God opens His hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing. Psalm 145:16. God would not permit them to muzzle the ox when treading out the corn, Deut. 25:4. Jesus reminds us that God feeds the birds, Matt. 6:25-26.

Even still, it takes a special callousness to take the milk that a mother goat produces for the nourishing of her kid, and use it to cook that same kid! That just sounds sick! However, God has made us consider that many of us commonly do the same outrageous things to one another.

Think of the Sadducees who although they were mostly the priestly class of Israelites, had little faith in the Scriptures. Their idea of stumping Jesus was to pit Scripture against Scripture to question whether there might be a resurrection or not. The Scriptures are our "mother's milk" given us from God to nourish our hope beyond the grave. How cynical to attempt to boil the righteous longings of our hearts in our own Source of Faith and Hope!

Then again, what of the callousness of the Nazi soldier, when a mother plead for the lives of her two sons, he offered to spare one that she would have to choose? Imagine taking pleasure from someone else's agony! Yet how different is that from forcing a young pregnant lady to choose between the life of her unborn child and the love or acceptance of her husband or parents? You would boil the kid in her mother's milk.

It is almost routine for many people to take advantage of the deep emotions of love to manipulate them into doing what may actually hurt or dishonor themselves. A self-absorbed mother might exaggerate her illness or pain to pressure her loving children into neglecting their own families or hurting their professional careers. A grown-up spoiled child might continue feeding off a feeble mother knowing he is hurting her. Children sometimes use the love of their mother to manipulate her into doing something she does not want to do saying, "If I end up dead, you'll be sorry!" That is callous, like boiling the kid in its mother's milk. tp