**A Law that Love the Lord**

*Exodus 20*

Welcome back everyone to another online service! Today we will continue through our year series, of biblical narrative. The passage we will be looking at today was in fact the very first passage that I had memorized in its entirety, and also its location, because in 5th grade I felt like it only makes sense if I was going to become a Christian, I might as well memories something from the bible and know where it’s found. And this passage has been on my heart ever since.

Today we will be looking at the 10 commandments’ in Exodus 20. Most of the world, almost everyone knows about the ten commandments, some even know the story, that God gave it to Moses on mount Sinai, but can anyone recite them? I mean, can any of you quote all ten of the commandments’?

You know, I was really wrestling this week whether or not to even teach on this passage today. Because this was supposed to be our year of biblical “narrative”. Exodus 20 is not a narrative, but a list of do’s and don’ts, a list of Law. But after praying and meditating on this passage I quickly realize that this Law of the Lord is foundational to understanding the rest of the biblical narrative. You see, to make sense of the gospel of Jesus, and to worship him, first we must know what he saves us from, and why we need a savoir.

* So today, if you are a Christian, but you are struggling with loving him and obeying him. Let me encourage you with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to devote yourself to a Law that loves the Lord.
* And if you have come to the conclusion over this time, “Gee, I don’t really know if I’m a Christian anymore. I don’t feel anything, I don’t really want to do anything with that. I just want to do my own thing.” Let me remind you my friend, of why this is so important and show you why his law matters.
* And if you are listening to this today and you happen to not be a follower of Jesus, I am glad you’re here, and I hope that you too, will put your trust in Jesus.

Exodus 20 I think, answers one of the most basic questions we all have about God, and religion.

* Is God real and if so, who is he?
* What does he want?
* Where am I going when I die?
* Does he think I’m a good person and if not, what do I have to do?
* How can I follow Him?

These are questions that all of us, especially in this time are thinking about. And God himself will answer these questions through the ten commandments and show you what these com. really points to.

So let’s take a step back into Exodus 19:10-13 to see the set up for these commandments.

10 ...And the Lord said to Moses, “...Tell the people to wash their garments and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

12 And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, ‘Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death... whether beast or man, he shall not live.’

16 On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled.

This is some terrifying stuff, if one of your kids or pets got loose and just touched the edge of the mountain they would have been BBQed.

**The message is clear**: God’s majesty—his holiness, is an awesome and terrifying reality. You don’t mess with a God like that. To answer the first question **who is God?** He is a holy God; he is a perfect God; he is a wrathful God. He is worthy of our fear and attention. The people tremble at his presence. This is who he is. I don’t get to make up my own god to please myself. These people didn’t make this up, Moses didn’t make this up. God says I am who I am. Not who you make me to be. Look at this, After 40 days when the people didn’t see Moses coming back down from the mountain, guess what they did? They melted together a golden calf to worship God, because now they were able to shape God into an image that they wanted. And let me tell you, people do this all the time to God.

 But his words are clear, if you cross this line you will die.

**Leviticus 26:14**“‘But if you will not listen to me and…fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant, **16**I will bring on you sudden terror, wasting diseases and fever that will destroy your sight and sap your strength…. I will punish you for your sins seven times over.”

You say, “*well that sounds hars*h” but consider this, its consistent to his holiness. He is perfect. You find this throughout scripture.

* In the book of numbers verse 15; some kids found a man picking up sticks on the sabbath, which was a violation to the law, so **God** told the congregation to stone the man to death.
* In the Garden of Eden, it was one bite from a forbidden fruit brought condemnation on the entire human race. Think about it: one bit, brought every disease, famine, natural disaster, and hell itself—one bite!
* In Genesis 19:26, Lot’s wife was turned into a pillar of salt for taking one backwards glance at the city God had told her to flee. One glance! She lost her life for one glance!
* In 2 Samuel 6:7, we see **a man named Uzzah was carrying the** Ark of the Covenant which was the presence of God on earth. And while the ark was sliding off, he caught it with his hands. But since God had forbidden them to touch. So for that one touch, God struck him dead.
* You say, “That’s Old Testament...” God was cranky... no he is still the same... In the New Testament, a man and wife named Ananias and Sapphira exaggerate the amount they put into the offering. God strikes them dead.
* Don’t you see, one law, one bite, one glance, one touch, cross one line one time and you are dead.

God is so Holy and so pure and Good and perfect that if we have any ounce of sin on our hearts, we cannot be in his presence, we would die.

Here is how J.D. Greer, a pastor at the summit church said, “*We think sin is not that bad because we have* ***a very human-centered view of it.*** *It doesn’t seem that bad to us. But when you measure the wickedness of a deed… by whom it is sin against… kick a dog—and you’ve done a genuinely bad thing. Kick the lady next to you in the grocery story; you’ll go to jail; walk into Buckingham Palace and roundhouse the Queen of England... it’s going to be worse than jail; the little guys in the tall fuzzy hats are going to beat you with sticks.* ***Our sin is infinitely wicked*** *because it is against an infinitely righteous and glorious God*”

So now let’s just read through the 10 commandments and see how you measure up, these laws will answer the basic question **what does God wants from us**? What is his requirements? Let’s see if you are a good person. oh boy… this will be fun.

**I. You shall have no other Gods before me.** *Can you say,* I have never put anything before God in my life. He has always been first in my thoughts, affections, and actions. I have always gotten more excited about my relationship with him than I ever have about a new romance or a new job or new car or a new Tv show.

**II. You shall have no carved images of me.** This commandment is about reshaping God according to your liking; believing wrong things about him because you’d prefer that he be a different way. Have you believed *fully* everything his word reveals about him, w/o doubting, or wishing he were different?

**III. You shall not take my name in vain.** This has less to do with saying, “Oh My God” but more with how highly we regard the name of God. Can you say, “I have never degraded his name down to a swear word, because I hold his name in highest respect. I have always represented that name well. I’ve always lived up to the name ‘Christian.’ Or follower of Christ.”

**IV. Remember the Sabbath.** This means taking the day of rest, Sunday seriously. God has blessed this day and made it holy. Can you say I have always set 1 day in the week to worship God? Also, this has to do with giving God fully what belongs to him. 10% of your financial first fruits.

**V. Honor your parents.** This has to do with how you relate to authorities in your life. Your parents are the first representation of the authority of God to you. This commandment is right in the middle of all the commandments because the first 5 laws relates to you and God. The last five relates to you and others. Can you say, “I have never disobeyed nor dishonored my parents or governmental officials, my boss, and local police or any other God-appointed authority over me. I promise, if you ask your parents right now, they would tell you where you have fallen in this area.

**VI. You shall not kill.** (You say, “FINALLY!” One I have not done) Then **Jesus came along** and messed *that* up. Because he said **to hate someone in your heart,** or to desire their harm, is like murder. Can you say, “I have never had hateful thoughts nor taken pleasure in seeing harm happen to another person. (Some of you have violated that like 5 times already today.

**VII. You shall not commit adultery.** (a lot of you are thinking that, “well good thing I’m not married yet”) Jesus messed this one up, too. Because he said that if you think lustful thoughts about someone that you are not married to, is committing adultery in your heart, which is what God sees. Can you say, “I have never entertained thoughts about physical intimacy with someone to whom I am not married?”

**VIII. You shall not steal.** Can you say, “I have never taken anything or any credit that doesn’t belong to me. I have never fudged my numbers and have always been honest with my taxes.” A lot of people think, “well I’m not hurting anyone, so its ok.” Can you say, “I never tried to take things that I wasn’t entitled to.” If you have, there is a name for those people, they are called thefts.
**IX. You shall not lie.** I **shouldn’t even have to go over** this one, but here we are… can you say, “I have never exaggerated the truth for my own benefit or covered up my faults, so people don’t know. I have always told the truth in every situation regarding every person I have ever known”?

**X. You shall not covet:** This is the worst one. Can you say, “I have never been greedy for something that wasn’t mine, nor jealous of the abilities, looks, position or possessions of others. I have always been fully content in what I have.”

 I’m pretty sure Instagram is built on coveting. Every time I’m on, it’s a reminder, “This is who I could of look like if I were more handy, or smart, or successful. Can you say with confidence, “I’ve never resented other people’s success, their beauty, their talents, their body shape, their intelligence, their possessions or their popularity?

If you are honest with yourself, how much of a “good person” do you feel right now. A lot of people would downplay the holiness of God and say, “Well… no one is perfect.” But remember the setup for this chapter: Cross the border one time—one sin!—and you die.

Interview Teddy

One of the biggest lies this world believes is that “they are a good person” To call yourself a “good person” is like a man who assist an old woman across the street while on his way to shoot up a school. Our small good deeds in the bigger picture of the direction of our lives is destruction.

I hope by now you are encouraged and uplifted by this message. It’s a beautiful day to remind yourself that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and the result of that sin is death. This leads us to our next question. **What is wrong with us?** Why are we so messed up? How can I ever change? Do you see why Paul says, we are “dead in our sins?”

When you able to witness God’s holiness, it just reveals how sick we are... The prophet Isaiah, after seeing how sinful his heart was before God, used this metaphor, Isaiah 64:6: like a filthy rag? Not even the kind you clean the floor with. This rag was the kind of rag that they used to cover up an old bleeding wound with puss and infection. It’s sickening. God is not going to grade you on a curve, he demands perfection and you have received a fat F. and then he says, “be perfect because I am perfect.”

Obedience to these laws was **supposed to come naturally** to us— our hearts were supposed to love God so much that we naturally did all these things! Psalm 119:97 shows us how our heart should respond to the commandments, “How I love your law!   I think about it all day long. I have avoided all evil conduct, because I want to obey your word. **I don’t need to be commanded to do the things I love**: You never have to command me to eat a steak; hug my fiancée, take $100. I naturally love to do those things. But because of sin. It’s like a disease that has passed down every generation since the beginning. No matter how far you stand apart, you have been tested positive for sin, and it has caused your heart to rebel against every law God gives you. The problem isn’t that the law is too strict, it’s that we are too wicked.

That’s why God points his people to a different solution. Because conforming to these laws doesn’t change you. If anything, following them, only reveal how wicked and messed up your heart really is. He wants us to see that we cannot love him and his law on our own. We don’t need a change in behavior, we need a change of hearts and renewing of our minds. We need a solution that can deal with our sins and set us free from evil. This leads to the question; **How can I follow God**? How can anyone please him? How can I love him and his words? Because we don’t need modification, we need transformation power. We don’t need advice or DIY instruction we need a **Savoir**.

God demands perfection; and the good news of the gospel is that he also supplies it. You see, the ten commandments are like train tracks that guild us in the right path. But only through the power of Jesus does the engine of our train have the ability to move down that track. Jesus died in the place of your sin and punishment so that you may receive the righteousness of God as a gift. The perfection, that you have always long for. You will never love or appreciate Jesus until you see the grave he recused you from. He felt the whips for your wickedness. His cross was your fate. God’s wrath was your eternal destiny, but Jesus took that penalty so that you can be revived to walk in his obedience. You see, Jesus is not your positive advice pep talk, or a feel-good experience, he is your Lord and Savior, who died for you, and came back to life to give you resurrection power in your heart. And until you are able to see and accept him as that, you will never truly love the Law of the Lord.

Listen to me**, knowing what’s right and wrong doesn’t give you the desire to obey or the power to change**. just look at our governmental law system, or the Dare program, or when you give your friend advice, but then they are still stuck in the same mess and drama, why!? Because **knowing what’s right and wrong doesn’t give you the desire to obey or the power to change**.

Look in Exodus 20:2 God starts the 10 com. with what he has done for them. “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

- Knowing this still was not enough to change them

- 10 com, doesn’t give the desire to obey

- 10 plagues and sign in Egypt, also was not enough to change their hearts.

God needed to change something inside of us, in order for us to truly change.

 That’s why in Jer. 31:31-34 “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant…“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people… “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

This New covenant was through Jesus, when you accept him as your Lord and Savior, repent of your sins, and give your heart over to him. He promise that he will make all things new. He will give you the desire to love him and his law. he will give you the power to change and be reborn.

My last question for us, **have you ever done that personally**? Have you accepted Jesus, in faith, and experienced his forgiveness, and healing, and love? I can say with confidence;

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in his wonderful face.*

*And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.*

All 10 com. Can be sum up in the word “Love”. **To Love God and love others**. I would like to end with this story in mark 12:28-34 when a teacher of the law ask Jesus what is the greatest commandment.

 Let me tell you, once you receive his Love, you have everything you need to obey his commands.

* **So to my brothers and sisters in Christ,** to encourage you with his words, “*You are not far from the kingdom of God*.” We have seen his glory, and we have believed his words.
* To **my friends who have lost faith over this time**.
	+ If you feel trapped by sin, look and believe.
	+ Do you feel defeated? Look and believe. Surely if he overcame your sin, he can transform your heart... Do you believe that?
	+ Look at the tomb, its empty, look and believe.
* **And if you have never given your life over to Jesus**, don’t hesitate to do that today. Look to Jesus, he took every ounce of punishment for you.
	+ You don’t need a fresh start; you need rebirth.
	+ You don’t need to turn over a new leaf; you need a new life.
	+ You don’t need to be helped, or improved, or enhanced? You need to be saved. So, turn to him today and believe.