

Laying Down the Law – Pt. 1

Exodus 20:1 – 17

I. Intro

- A. Continuing study of Exodus; today – God giving the Law to Moses and His people
- B. Today – top 10 commandments; detailed sermon series 4 years ago
- C. **Question:** What's so important about 10 commandments vs. rest of the law? Are the 10 commandments still applicable for us today?
- D. Just a few months since God had brought His people out of centuries of slavery and oppression; people could've just carried on with life, no change or impact from their years of captivity
- E. God's law, and God speaking His commandments to Moses, was true, real deliverance; could say the Ten Commandments are God's statutes of liberty
- F. 10 commandments divided into two sections: first 4, dealing with man's relationship with God; last 6, deal with man's relationship with each other; focus on first 4 today, last 6 next week
- G. **READ Exodus 20:1 – 17**

II. God Speaks (v. 1, 2)

- A. Fear of God's people when God spoke; **REFER Exodus 20:18 – 19**
- B. **Question:** Where's the fear in the people of God today when He speaks? Same attitude as Israelites (v. 19)
- C. Today, people (even in church) not listening for God's voice - consequences
 - i. Prayer no longer allowed in schools or at sporting events
 - ii. Ten Commandments removed from government buildings and public places
 - iii. People become more concerned about saving animals than saving unborn children
 - iv. Marriage is no longer a God-established covenant between one man and one woman for a lifetime
 - v. Lawlessness begins to overtake a nation and authority is no longer respected
- D. Time to get back to listening for the voice of God; not that God doesn't still speak to His people today, it's that His people don't listen
- E. 10 commandments from God of the universe, not rules Moses thought up

III. Commandments # 1 & # 2 (v. 3 - 5)

- A. Last week – God appears to the people at Moses at Mt. Sinai; instructions for encounter (limits, boundaries); **REFER v. 19:8**
- B. People not keeping their word; soon after convince Aaron to build them a golden calf to worship; enter Promise Land begin to worship gods of Canaanites
- C. God demands our exclusive devotion, worship; **REFER v. 4, 5; READ Exodus 22:20, 23:13, 24, 32**
- D. Warning – **REFER v. 5**
- E. Promise – **REFER v. 6**
- F. God doesn't just know about me, He knows me to the very core of my being, the very depths of my soul; and yet He still loves; I'm His chosen, treasured possession in Christ His Son
- G. Not just A god, or a SUNDAY or WEDNESDAY god, or just a CHRISTMAS or EASTER god; MY God, YOUR God – those who truly love Him and He loves, and are wholly devoted to Him, desire to serve Him in any capacity
- H. Why our world, our nation, is in such a mess today – it's because we have refused to obey these first two commandments – *You shall have no other gods before me ... You shall not make for yourselves a carved image [call it a god] ... bow down to them or serve them*

IV. Commandment # 3 (v. 7)

- A. **Question:** If God as Sovereign, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Creator of all (including us), the Great I AM how could we misuse/abuse His name?
- B. How God identified Himself to Moses and people – **REFER v. 2**
- C. **Romans 8:15-17 (NIV)** ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of **sonship**. And by him we cry, **"Abba, Father."** ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that **we are God's children.** ¹⁷ Now **if we are children**, then we are heirs--**heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.
 - i. **Trusting in Christ as Savior we are adopted into family of God – become one of God's children; identity is now with God and Christ**
 - ii. **A new "surname" which is Christian**
 - iii. **As God's children we are co-heirs with God the Son – inheritance is access to all blessings, riches of God the Father and inheritance of abundant and everlasting life**
 - iv. **We're representative of that name (identity) we carry**
- D. **Meaning of "taking the name of God in vain"; vain (Def.)**

- i. no purpose – the name of God, Jehovah, Yahweh, has made no difference in our life
 - ii. lacking substance or worth – the name of God, Jehovah, Yahweh means nothing to us
 - iii. showing excessive pride or conceit – attitude we don't need God, do just fine on our own
- E. Misusing/abusing God's name is reflection of the true attitude of our heart towards God; the name "Christian" is nothing more to us than just a label

V. Commandment # 4 (v. 8 – 11)

- A. Talked about few weeks ago, Ch. 16; gathering manna
- B. sabbath (Heb.) - *shabat*, cause to cease; day to set aside everything that occupies our time, our thoughts, our efforts all through the other 6 days of the week and focus all our attention and efforts on the Lord (nothing to do with being lazy or taking a Sunday afternoon nap)
- C. "Day of rest" meaning "rest" in our relationship with God; our focus for this one day of the week
- D. (v. 10) ... *Sabbath to the Lord* – not to the bed or recliner, TV, family, or ball field, your job, etc.; Ex: preachers working on Sunday about ministry
- E. (v. 11) Doing anything else other than devoting the *Sabbath to the Lord* means we no longer consider the day holy; making it something other than what God designed, established it to be

VI. Close

- A. **Question:** Why first 4 so important? God showing us His expectations for righteousness – being right in relationship with Him
 - i. Also, God showing us how incapable we are in achieving that righteousness by our own efforts
- B. **Question:** Why first 4 so important? To show us our need for a Savior – perfect, unblemished sacrifice for our failure to be righteous because of sin
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (ESV)

20 Therefore, we are **ambassadors for Christ (identity)**, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God (**right standing/relationship**).

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God.**