

Laying Down the Law – Pt. 2

Exodus 20:1 – 17

I. Intro

- A. Last week – study of Exodus, 10 commandments; first 4 – dealing with our relationship with God, last 6 – our relationship with each other
- B. Talked about: God commands we have no other gods, not make/form gods out of any carved image; taking the name of the Lord in vain; remembering to keep the Sabbath holy – one day of week focus all our attention/efforts on the Lord
- C. Today – continue looking at last 6 commandments
- D. **READ Exodus 20:1 – 17**

II. Commandment # 5 (v. 12)

- A. All heard, first commandment given that comes with promise
- B. Commandment for all children (applies to all)
- C. *Honor your father and your mother ...*; honor (Def.) - showing of merited respect; recognition; Heb. (*kabad*)- to weigh heavily
- D. For all of us, especially for those whose parents are still living, the relationship with our parents should “weigh heavy” in our lives – not as a burden, but in priority and importance
 - i. 1 Timothy 5:8 (ESV)
8 But if anyone does not provide [*care*] for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- E. Scripture on parent-child relationship: **Psalm 127:3; Proverbs 10:1, 17:6, 31:27, 28; Ephesians 6:1 – 4; Colossians 3:20, 21**
- F. Majority of us had no choice of parents – majority of parents don’t choose their children; **Illustration**: Becca and Shawn adopting – even in adoption, if God is sovereign over all, God gives you children and parents he wants you to have; in bad situations may not understand reason/purpose behind God’s plan
- G. To parents – *Children are a heritage (Lit. - fruit of the belly) from the Lord*; reminding children of how special they are ...
- H. To children – Your parents are your parents that God blessed you with – good or bad, parents are also sinners and *fall short of the glory of God*, but God commands us to honor them

III. Commandment # 6 (v. 13)

- A. Common sense command – *You shall not murder*

B. This year alone, 24% increase in murders in U.S.; perspective, next highest percentage increase last 10 years between 2014 – 2015 of +11% - talking, intentional willful act to kill another human being; common sense out the window

C. Jesus expands command behind act of murder

i. Matthew 5:21-22 (ESV)

21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’

22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. **(Can “kill”, destroy a person by our very words)**

ii. 1 John 3:15 (ESV)

15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. **(Evil thoughts/attitude regarding another person is like “murdering” them)**

D. 1 Samuel 2:6 (ESV)

6 **The LORD kills and brings to life**; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

E. Psalm 139:16 (ESV)

16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; **in your book were written**, every one of them, **the days that were formed for me**, when as yet there was none of them.

F. Only God Almighty has authority to give life, and take life

IV. Commandment # 7 (v. 14)

A. *You shall not commit adultery*

B. This commandment never been more dismissed, ignored than it is today; with each and every passing generation it becomes even more ignored

C. Our nation has faced a more severe “epidemic” for decades than the coronavirus pandemic – immorality epidemic

D. Hollywood has generations believing now that a person can fall deeply in love in a matter of hours, have an intimate physical encounter with that person, then regard that person as the love of your life for the rest of your life – until someone better comes along

E. Jesus, His words about adultery, not just the act but the very thought: Matthew 5:27-28 (ESV)

27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’

28 But I say to you that everyone who **looks at a woman with lustful intent** has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

V. Commandment # 8 (v. 15)

A. *You shall not steal*

B. Account from OT; God's just entered Promise Land, about to conquer Jericho

i. Lord's instructions: Joshua 6:18-19 (ESV)

18 But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it. **(what God says is to be destroyed is to be destroyed)**

19 But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD."

ii. Man named Achan, decided he was entitled (for whatever reason), so he steals some of those items that were to be the Lord's

iii. Result of stealing: Joshua 7:11-12 (ESV)

11 **Israel has sinned**; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; **they have stolen and lied** and put them among their own belongings. **(hid them – tried to get away with it)**

12 Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies. They turn their backs before their enemies, because **they have become devoted for destruction. I will be with you no more, unless** you [make it right].

C. Point: stealing, theft is sin not only against the person taken from, but against God; like all sin, stealing leads to more sin (lying); God cannot, will not, associate with willful sinner

VI. Commandment # 9 (v. 16)

A. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor*

B. Often misquote this commandment – just say, *You shall not lie*

C. Commandment speaks of giving false testimony against, saying something not true about someone else

D. Include:

i. slander – untruth intended to harm, destroy another's reputation/character

ii. gossip – having no concern whether what's being said is true or not; most of time "gossip" isn't true or not full truth

iii. half-truths – intentionally not giving all the facts in matters related to another person

iv. insincere flattery (schmoozing) – usually done to gain some personal benefit

v. exaggerations – deception; making something sound better than it really is

vi. excuses – most of time just dressed up lies or half-truths

E. **Question: Where does all this originate? Jesus said, John 8:44 (ESV)**

44 You are of your father the devil ... [*The devil*] does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and **the father of lies**.

VII. **Commandment # 10 (v. 17)**

A. **Exodus 20:17 (ESV)**

17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house (**property**); you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife (**family**), or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s. (**any possessions**)”

B. **covet (Def.) - obsessive desire to want something you don’t have; nothing wrong with the desire to want something, it’s when the desire becomes obsession that it becomes sin**

C. **Progression of just a desire to sin: James 1:14-15 (ESV)**

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. (**Temptation and desire is not sin**)

15 Then desire when it has conceived (**desire becomes an obsession to act**) gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

VIII. **Close**

A. **Sin is a condition of the heart: Mark 7:21-23 (ESV)**

21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,

22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.

23 All these evil things (**sin**) come from within, and they defile a person.”

B. **Sin is sin, it’s a condition that we can’t overcome/beat on our own; in God’s eyes there is no sin worse than another because all sin/any sin hurts our relationship/fellowship with Him and others**

C. **But ... 1 John 1:7-9 (ESV)**

7 ... the blood of Jesus [*God’s*] Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and [*He is*] just [*He will*] forgive us our sins and [*He will*] cleanse us from all unrighteousness.