

Sermon 10.7.18 Pastor Jordan Gades **Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17**

Good Evening, Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pop Quiz time - 1st commandment. - 4th commandment- 5th commandment, 7th

So it looks like you did ok you. If you need to look them up there are bibles in front of you but also: Download a bible and a Small Catechism - and feel free to check out our website to set up online giving

But how did that feel? Not so fun I'm sure. Probably not the most fun you could have at church. Hearing a bunch of rules probably might not be the most helpful in your life right now. So what are we doing why do we spend so much time around these commandments, these laws?

Well these are Laws laid down by God first and foremost. This is the law of the one who created the land. They are built into us. We understand them to be true on a much deeper level than simple logic. What we sometimes lack is placing ourselves under their jurisdiction. Small example: if you're running to Brainerd for your trip to Costco, what are the odds that you might be going just a little over the speed limit? We know these laws exist, we just don't think they apply to us at that moment right. We form this attitude of confidence based on experience - we think they are there to scare us. We understand why they are there but I mean come on, it's sunny, the roads are dry and in decent condition and pretty straight, and you've driven them a hundred times. Of yeah, and we all know Deerwood is a speed trap.

What good is the Law if we think we "know" where it's ok to break it or bend it? What do we do with this thought of we intimately know the Law of our God but we keep breaking them, and on purpose no less?

Well again, first and foremost, so that we start to listen to them. For the love of our amazing creator, we have to try to stop and breaking them. These are a pretty good set of commandments. And even more so they are a pretty amazing set of promises.

"Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, 6 but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation."

We automatically set God in the Old Testament as judge. With this if we hear a judgement, but it's so much more. It is God making this amazing promise to us. Promise, not an if of warning its "if you find x you get the prize."

And try and reimagine and picture the promise of the word "shall". Outside of the commandments the first place my mind goes is Gandalf on the bridge, with his iconic, you shall not pass. To the enemy that is law, to his companions it is the promise of life. God says that same thing to us, and he did it first, at the instance of creation, in promises of life

You shall not have any other Gods
You shall not steal
You shall not lie
You shall not murder
You shall not covet your neighbor's belongings

Imagine again the world that is defined there. No stealing, no lies, no murder, no jealousy. Where children listen to their parents and we live in trusting relationships with all people and with our God. I was listening to a podcast this week on this text and the presenter said this “You cannot see the freedom and promise of this covenant unless you have seen or experienced that imprisonment of those Sins”

Over and over in our culture I have heard that same thing, you don't know freedom until it's been taken away. Well we know how we put in this imprisonment of sin and we know the one that frees us and gives us this new imagination to dream and see a new way of existing.

10 commandments

- God
 - Trapped in Chasing and being captured by wealth verses becoming stewards,
- Neighbors
 - Judging others verses adopt and become a family.
 - Covet verses Feed and protect
 - Gossip verses defend
 - Demand work of others because that's how we had to do it or because that's always how it's been done verses seeing the blessing of giving true Sabbath
 - We dehumanize, we set peoples worth based off of productivity, we view each other by the worth we can get out of each other. It's time to free ourselves of those shackles and love first.

We must open our hearts to the Freedom of loving, the freedom of giving, the freedom of caring that is so central to these promises that our God has blessed us with.

We are never alone in this new vision. We are sustain and carried by the one who promises to Bear you up on eagle's wings. We can see this this future because God is helping us to see it. And this Future is Possible because it is God's redeeming love and sacrifice that is flowing to every point of creation through us. It is never us alone. This covenant binds us, this covenant bears us, this covenant of love and trust and promise is forever. Amen.