

6.9/10.18 Sermon Pastor Jordan Gades Exodus 20:12-16

Good Morning! Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Alright! 10 commandments; week 3 of 4. And this week we get to the easy ones. Those commandments that are a breeze to follow. The commandments that are so easy to say yup don't do those. These should just be Check, check, Check, and check, what's next?

Listen to your parents, maybe the toughest one but we get better at that as we grow older, right? Don't kill, don't commit adultery, don't steal, and don't lie about neighbors. Well at least we don't do those so we're good. Point being don't do them, they are bad.

Ok sermon over. Everyone have a wonderful evening!

Oh well I guess we do have to talk about more than that don't we. And of course, these are commandments that we are given from God and they are never as easy as they seem.

We are given these commandments because this is how we are supposed to live and be in relationship with God and with one another. That of course is the center, hinge upon which we swing every day.

So often we think of these commandments as the guidelines to how to how we live our lives. But guidelines are nothing but fences, things that reign us in, things that take away our freedom. And that is the exact opposite of what God wants for us. God wants us to be free. We heard that last week from Pastor Doug. God gives us Freedom. God didn't give us fences.

Now how do we look at these commandments now? Now that instead of seeing things that pen us in, these simple commandments break down every barrier that surrounds us. This is a hard thing for us to do. We have been told that these are the rules. You do these things. Then you are a "good person" whatever that means.

I'd like to throw out a scenario for you. You accidentally kill someone with your car, total freak accident, but their dead. Dang that's pretty bad right. I'd wager you'd feel horrible about that. Taking a life breaks something within us or maybe on the less horrific side of things when you steal something. Even when it's on accident. You don't want to steal. It's someone else's.

We weren't created to destroy each other we were created to build each other up. Sin eats at us. Corrupts us. Numbs us to that simple fact. That we are in pain when we hurt each other, when we sin against one another.

This is how we are created. This is how God exists. God exists in perfect relationship as the triune God. Father, Son, Holy Spirit, existing in perfect relationship, supporting the other. This is the image of God that we are living into.

We are supposed to be in this perfect relationship with one another. We exist at our best when we are in this relationship. This is what the commandments are steering us to. And they also offer us a glimpse of this reality.

When we hear the commandments we hear you shall not commit murder. You know in other words, don't kill people. You shall not this, you shall not that. Let's put those fences again right?

Well what if told you "You shall be free" "you shall be full of joy" "you shall not be hungry and full of pain" "you shall live a vibrant gracious life" Those you "shalls" and "shall nots" change a little don't they. We just opened up our lives, opened it from horizon to horizon. We can see it all now right?

We don't want to be hungry, we don't want to be sad, we also don't want to lie steal cheat and kill. Imagining living in a world where that was the reality. This is what God is offering. This is the freedom that God is offering with all the commandments, not just these 5. We don't have to worry about worshipping other God's. Doesn't that sound great? To have that focus that assured knowledge of our god upon our hearts every moment of every day? To never have to worry about killing or hurting another person. To never have to steal because we have more than enough and everyone shares all that they have.

We are given this beautiful glimpse of the kingdom of God through these "commandments" depending more and more on God, listening more and more to God get us closer to this place of doing things we want to be doing and not worrying about those things we hate and fear.

Try this way of thinking out. Practice it. We have to be intentional about how we act in this world. We have to train ourselves on how to think. But through that process we gain so much more. We'll never be perfect but we make this world so much more and we will get so much more out of this world as well. This is such an incredible gift that our amazing God and Creator has given us, why not use it as often as possible.

So let us all live into the freedom, and hope and joy that these wonderful commandments bring. Amen