

June 27, 2010

Day One – Recap of Ten Commandments: Lesson 4

The Ten Commandments refine our view of God. There's a lot of ways you might find out about another person, but one of the most valuable is the find out what they *want*. That is, in essence, exactly what we have been given in the Ten Commandments. God has given us a lengthy story about Him which culminates in an explanation of the few things that He considers most important. Don't ever forget how fortunate we are to *know* the Creator of the universe. We actually *know* His heart. I can't say for certain that I actually *know* even my own mind, but I am quite certain that I know what God wants of us.

I hope that you've seen a grander vision of these 10 Commandments through Jared's preaching than you've ever seen before. The commandments are far more expansive than they appear at first glance. We could, of course, say much more than has been said already, but it's probably better not to get bogged down. Today I just wanted to remind us how much we can actually learn about God when we think carefully about the commandments, specifically the third commandment.

The most glaring disclosure that God makes in the third commandment is that *he is all about himself*. God isn't humble and we shouldn't expect Him to be or want Him to be. God is perfect and He wants His creation to know that. We honor Him when we know who He truly is and are driven to act in accordance with this knowledge. That is a big part of "not taking His name in vain." It probably mean not cursing, and it may mean capitalizing His name or even refusing to write it, as the ancient Israelites did. These are easy to do, but it's important that we look behind our reasoning for doing it. Why is not okay to invoke the name of God when we get upset? I think it's an important question for us to ask.

When we use God's name as a way to get our point across we are not representing God as He has presented Himself. We are basically lying about God. God has taken tremendous measures to ensure that His children know Him and represent Him accurately, giving us volumes of written material in addition to our natural knowledge of a Creator. Taking God's name in vain is really just another way to take Him off the throne by making Him out to be something else.

Day Two – Read Exodus 20:8

What does "holy" mean?

Read the Lesson Summary.

Read Isaiah 58:13-14.

What is this passage instructing the Israelites to do?

Do these verses show that the Sabbath is meant to be a burden or a delight?

Day Three – Read Exodus 31:12-17

What was different about the Sabbath from other days?

What reasons did God give to Israel for observing the Sabbath?

What do the words “sanctify” and “holy” mean?

Read Leviticus 20:22-26.

How was Israel separate or “set apart” from the other nations?

How was the Sabbath a weekly reminder that the Israelites were a “set apart” people for God?

How are Christians “set apart” for God? Do you live in a way that is set apart from the world? Explain.

Day Four – Read Exodus 16:1-30

Summarize this passage in your own words.

What miracles or mighty acts of God do you see in the text?

Did God give the Israelites manna because they complained? Why did He provide manna for them?

How important is the keeping of His law to God? How do you know that?

What does this passage tell you about God's provision for His people? What does this passage tell you about God's desire to help His people keep His law?

Day Five – Read Matthew 6:25-33

What two things does Jesus command in this passage?

What reason does Jesus give for us not to be anxious? What examples does He give? What is Jesus teaching about God?

What does "seek first the kingdom of God" mean? What does this have to do with the Sabbath?

What does "all these things will be added to you" mean? What are all these things? What does this have to do with the Sabbath?

What is the Biblical principle that Jesus is teaching in this passage?

What does this principle mean for you?

Day Six – Read Mark 2:23 – 3:6

What did Jesus' disciples do that made the Pharisees angry? Were the disciples working - harvesting grain on the Sabbath? What were they doing?

What did the Sabbath mean for the Pharisees?

Did Jesus think about the Sabbath the same way the Pharisees thought about the Sabbath? What was different in the way Jesus understood the Sabbath?

What does Mark 2:27 mean?

What is Jesus saying about Himself in Mark 2:28?

Why do you think Jesus went to the synagogue? What does this tell you about Jesus' view of the Sabbath?

What did Jesus do on the Sabbath that angered the Pharisees? Why was Jesus grieved at the Pharisees?

What "higher law" was Jesus obeying? What is Jesus teaching about the Sabbath in Mark 3:1-6?

Read Hebrews 4:1-13.

What is the "Sabbath rest" Hebrews is talking about?

What kinds of things will we rest from in heaven?

What are Christians to do while they are waiting for this Sabbath rest in heaven? What does "strive to enter that rest" mean?

How can we "strive to enter that rest"?