

July 4, 2010

Day One – Recap of Ten Commandments: Lesson 5

As I'm sure you have gathered through your own examination of the Bible, sometimes it can be hard to understand a particular verse. Even just one statement can be perplexing in itself. In my mind, the Sabbath issue is like having to understand the entire Bible (and understand it well!) at the same time. It stretches from God's first movements in Genesis 1 to the consummation of Christ's Kingdom in Revelation and includes everything in between. And as if that isn't hard enough, there are good, conservative scholars who take different positions. The Sabbath really can be a conundrum.

I won't be able to even scratch the surface here. To be perfectly honest, I'm not sure that I really understand all the issues at stake. But, before we all give up in frustration, there are a few things that can definitely be said.

The most important thing that I believe we should take away from the Sabbath discussion is that *God wants us to act like Him*. When the Israelites kept the Sabbath day holy, they were reflecting the character of God. This should be the main goal of our lives. We may not understand what to do with the one day every week, but we must understand the principle behind God's command. We need to order our days, weeks, minutes, seconds, dreams, needs...everything...around God. He is the Lord over all and commands that we live our lives with that in mind.

We should also be diligent to *rest* in God. That's sort of a paradox if you think about it. It's not just that we take one day to be lazy, but instead that we are Sabbath-like in everything we do. We can rest in God's perfect sovereignty over everything. We can rest in Christ's blood which was freely shed on our behalf and which allows us to enter into the throne of grace. We can rest from anxiety as we meditate on God's goodness to us, knowing that God will always be faithful to His children.

The Sabbath does point forward to Christ. It was God's plan from the beginning to provide His children a means of rest. The Israelites had a chance every week to take time away from the minutiae of life and think about God's grace. We should take time to remember Christ daily. Our lives should be a giant sigh of relief at having been purchased from the bonds of slavery and delivered into everlasting peace with God.

Day Two – Read Exodus 20:12

What does "honor" mean?

What is the promise given with this verse?

Read: Lesson Summary

How did Obadiah show respect to Elijah by his actions?

How did Obadiah show respect to Elijah by his words?

Read: Genesis 47:12

How did Joseph show honor to his father?

What heart attitudes do you think Joseph had toward his father?

Day Three – Read Jeremiah 35:12-19

What command did Jonadab give to his sons?

How did Jonadab's sons respond to his command?

What does this show about Jonadab's sons' heart attitude toward him?

What command did God give to Israel? How many times did he tell Israel to turn from their evil ways?

Did the Israelites honor God? (Make sure your child understands that honoring a person involves obeying that person.)

What were the consequences to Israel of dishonoring and disobeying God?

What was the blessing to the Rechabites for honoring and obeying God?

Day Four – Read Genesis 4:1-12

What was Abel's heart attitude toward God? How do you know this? (What actions of his showed that he honored God?)

What was Cain's heart attitude toward God? How do you know this? (see verses 6 & 7.) (Be sure your child understands that not only did Cain disregard God by disobeying Him, he also did not respond well to God's discipline.)

How did Cain speak to God? (See verse 9.)

What was the consequence of Cain's disrespect for God and for God's laws?

How does this passage show us how we should respond to God if we honor Him?

What does this passage teach about honor that would help you know how to honor your parents?

Something important to remember: If you cannot honor your parents, you will not be able honor God, either.

Day Five – Read Ephesians 4:29, Proverbs 12:18, Proverbs 15:28, Philippians 2:14-16

What do these passages tell you about respectful speech?

Read: Matthew 12:34-37, Matthew 15:17-18

From where do these passages say that dishonoring speech comes?

What is the remedy or cure for disrespectful speech? (Make sure your child understands that dishonoring speech comes from the heart and the cure is a heart change.)

Day Six – Read Mark 2:23 – 3:6

Who are "the governing authorities"?

Why should we honor those in authority over us?

When we disrespect those in authority, who else do we also respect? Why is this true?

What is the result of dishonoring authority?

Read: 1 Peter 2:13-25

Why should we be obedient to those in authority over us?

What does it mean to live as “servants of God” (See verses 16-17.)?

What does this passage say about suffering unjustly?

How is Jesus an example to us?

How did Jesus show honor to the authority over Him—God the Father? (See verse 23.)