

“Honor your Father and Mother”

Exodus 20:12

Introduction

- We are taking a few months to go through the 10 Commandments found in Exodus Chapter 20
 - Now why in the world in New Testament age of Grace would we want to do that?

Well for one reason on Wednesday Nights we are looking at the Book of Exodus from which the 10 Commandments come in its entirety

- And seeing the context for what we are studying is so important and so I want to connect the two
 - This week.....

Okay, sounds interesting but why are we studying the law with all its weird customs and dietary laws

- Well remember the first five books of the Bible are called the Law, but much of it is what the New Testament calls the Law of Moses
 - the holidays the Jews were suppose to keep
 - the rights of cleanliness that the Jews were to do
 - the Law of Moses was given to the Jewish people for that time
- The 10 commandments are different – they are given to all people for all time
 - Why???

Why are the 10 Commandments Important?

#1 – The Law Drives us to Christ

- We wonder why people don't see their need for Christ. Why do people walk away from Jesus?

I think one of the reasons is because we do a disservice to the gospel of Jesus Christ when we say things like – Give your life to Christ, He will make your life better

- It has been such a good experience for me!

We are like the flight attendant I talked about the first night who had been told by the pilot, 3 of the 4 engines have failed and we are going down, get the parachutes out

- But that flight attendant, like many of us, we don't want to offend, we don't want to impose

So she says, hey, sorry to interrupt your in-flight movie, sorry to interrupt your diet coke drinking – but would anyone like a parachute

- see how good it looks on me, it should make your seat more comfortable
 - and most people are like why is this person interrupting my movie
 - and the few who take one, realize right away, it doesn't make my seat more comfortable and they want to take it off

But if that flight would have been honest with the people – We are going down

- but good news, we have a parachute, who wants one
 - well then no one would care about the movie or their soda
 - no – help me, give me the parachute

And so too when we in love, help people to see there is a standard, and you have fallen short and the wages of sin really is death

- but good news, there is a savior
 - The law doesn't save us, doesn't make us more acceptable to God
 - But when we understand it, it drives us to Christ

Why are the 10 Commandments Important?

#1 – The Law Drives us to Christ

#2 – The Law Directs us in Christ

- The Law show us our duty to God and to our fellow man – this is how you love God and love people
 - And in a day and age where so many including Christians do whatever is right in their own eyes, because we have lost the standard
- We live in the age of Grace which I am thankful for, we could not be saved without grace
 - But we sometimes think well then it doesn't matter how I live, grace brother – no friend there is a standard

Why are the 10 Commandments Important?

#1 – The Law Drives us to Christ

#2 – The Law Directs us in Christ

#3 – The Law helps us Discover Christ

- You learn something about the Law giver from the laws

Some of the laws on the books in our city governments let us know that at one time someone making laws was dumb

- We move on this week to the great state of Indiana
 - Where it is illegal to sniff glue, before a high wire act and sorry Aaron Salvato, put on a puppet show – and my favorite is all of those are illegal under the Immoral Act laws
 - Taking a bath is illegal between the months of October to March – gives a whole new meaning to spring cleaning
 - And my favorite – it is illegal to have a mustache, if and only if, you have a tendency to habitual kiss other humans – does that mean if you habitually kiss orangutans its okay?
- We will look at other states as this series progresses

But those laws tell you something about the lawgivers

- well the 10 Commandments are the same
 - and what we primarily will discover about God from His law is that He is love

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” - I John 5:3

- As we keep His commandments
 - Not to save us, not to qualify us for His love
 - But just as we are directed in Christ - I experience His love for me

And again I remind you of all these things because these apply to commandment number five...

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.” – Exodus 20:12

Now with this commandment we begin the second half of the Ten Commandments

- the first four commandments deal with our vertical relationship with God
 - the second six deal with our relationship with one another
 - most scholars believe that this was how the two tablets were divided – how we should live toward God on one and how we are to live toward one another on the other

Now whether that was the case or not, one thing I know is true is that if we don't have the first part down, if we don't have our vertical relationship with God down, if that is not our focus

- Then we will never really have the second part down
 - We will be of no use ministering to others until we have a right relationship between us and God

So we need the first four, but these next six are important too, because we need to let our relationship with God affect those we are around.

- We don't live this Christian life in a vacuum
 - The fact that I love Him
 - That He is my God and I am being refreshed by Him
 - Those facts need to affect the way I treat people
- And we begin tonight with the way we are suppose to treat our parents – we are to honor our mother and father

Now this is a commandment often repeated in the New Testament

- Paul repeats this commandment in Colossians 3:20, and in Ephesians 6:1
 - And he adds to it that children are to obey their parents

To “obey” is a military term, which means to give “full attention to fulfillment of an instruction as if your life depended on it”

- with it is a picture of a soldier going into battle and his superior officer is giving instructions, directions that will be critical to the battle
 - at that moment none of us would have a listening problem

When I was pastoring the church in Texas I had a great assistant who is now home with Jesus by the name of Mike Moran, his family goes to church here at Vista. But I remember when Mike was real handy, which I am not, and he was changing light switches in my home and he had to go take care of something and he started explaining to me which wires did what and what to touch and what not to touch. Now I repent I admit, sometimes when Mike is talking to me I'll be looking at him and thinking who am I suppose to meet with later today, while moving my head – not at this moment – no way – He had my complete attention because I didn't want to die

This is God's heart for children that we would listen to our parents as if our lives depended on what they were saying

- Now wait a second you might say, now wait a second, you said "Children" – I am not in Candy Land Children's ministry – am in Junior high, high school, a college student - I am a young adult – this does not apply to me

Listen when Paul the apostle repeats this command in the New Testament, the word he uses is not the Greek word for baby or little kiddie

- But it is the Greek word **"teknon" which means anyone regardless of age who is under a parent's care**
 - In others word – if you live under the care of your parents, under their roof, eat their food, drink their water, go to school on their dime
 - You are "teknon"
- And God's word to a teknon's is that they would obey and their parents
 - That you would value what they say as if your life depended on it

That is the idea of obeying – it is valuing the words being spoken and then following them

- This is what God is calling you to do with your parents
 - instead of tuning them out and plugging your ears
 - we are to listen, to try to comprehend what they are saying
 - To value the words they are sharing – and then follow what has been said

This is what it means to obey

- But noticed God doesn't stop there

The Word does not just stop with children obeying, but it goes on to explain that all of us, no matter what age, no matter our life situations, we are all to honor our mother and father

- and both these words together give you a picture of what God is wanting to do
 - **you see "obeying" has to do with action**
 - **but "honoring" has to do with attitude**

I knew better than to not obey my Mom. And so one Saturday morning I was watching Scooby Do and she was asking me to take out the trash. But it was such a good part when you are going to find out who the mystery guy is that has been causing all the trouble. But then I heard my middle name, which is when I knew it was serious. So I got up and gave her my attention. Obviously she was a little mad I had been ignoring her, so rather intensely now, she asked me to take out the trash. I said, Okay Mom, and turned my back. With my back to her, I began to make a face, an awful mocking face. I knew it was awful because I saw it in a mirror that I was walking toward. But that is not all I saw, I also saw this blur that was my mom would had also notice my lovely commentary on what she had just said.

- Moral of the story is to check for mirrors if you are going to turn your back and mock your parents
 - No – The real reason I tell that story is to illustrate the truth that obedience is not just an action, but an attitude

In fact when you break it down, the word “honor” means to give weight, to give weight to their position

- and this goes far beyond I'm 15 under the authority of my parents
 - I believe this is a word for everyone of us, no matter what age, no matter what life situation, that God wants us to have with our parents
- That is, dysfunctional as they may be, as messed up as it was growing up, I realize they gave me life, and in most cases they gave me some tools to grow with in my life
 - I mean even if they only served as a bad example, they still served you as an example of who you didn't want to be with your kids, with your family – and it was a service

So all I am saying on that is I think that the heart of the Lord is we are careful how we talk about them, that we give honor to their position in our lives

- and I think this goes far beyond our physical birth parents

Interesting story in I Samuel 24 – David is being hunted by Saul, there He is in a cave – David's men want him to kill Saul, he sneaks up and cuts the garment – in that day it was an assault on your dignity, on your glory if someone cut your robe

- and David felt bad
 - and so he cried out verse 11 “oh my father”
 - now by the way – was Saul David's father – no, David was the son of Jesse
 - So who was Saul in his life? – He was his Father-in-law
 - Oh, boy you are just meddling

No friends it's the Word...

- The Bible draws no distinction between parents and in laws, the term father and mother are used for those who are your grandparents, those who are your spouse's parents
 - We are to honor them, we are not to cut them down
 - a cartoon in USA Today had two cannibals sitting together and one said, “I hate my in-laws they are so tuff – and the other said, no problem – just try the potatoes”
 - but we are to honor, to watch how we speak about our spouse's parents
 - but I think it even goes further than that

Saul was not just David's father-in-law, but Saul was also David's king, he was an authority figure God had put over David

- as wicked as Saul was

I mean have you ever thought about what it must have been like to be David and be under Saul?

- Saul gets jealous of David because the people are singing, Saul has slain his thousands and David his tens of thousands
 - And we say, oh the jealousy of Saul
 - Can you image being David hearing that song?

- What thousands – what Bible story is that where Saul slays thousands – David led the army out on behalf of Saul and did that – But it was David that killed that Goliath, it was David that routed the Philistines
- When did Saul kill his thousands
- And when Saul throws a spear at David, can you image?
 - David was the one who killed Goliath, Saul was the one who couldn't hit David with a spear, I image David thinking, I could out you right now
 - But he doesn't do it
 - He doesn't speak evil of Saul
 - And when he simply cuts his robe, David is cut to the heart

And that is because we need to have honor, to watch how we speak and treat, yes our parents, yes our in-laws, and yes our grandparents

- but as we go through the rest of these commandments, most scholars believe they apply to all aspects of our lives
 - in other words – when we are told not to murder or commit adultery as Jesus brought up in the Sermon on the Mount that also applies to hate and lust, not just literally physical acts

I am not to harbor murder in my heart, I am not to live out adultery in my mind and when it comes to honoring authority, I am to honor all the authority God puts me under, not just my literal Mom and Dad

- now God also includes in this commandment a why?
 - Because we need that
 - When you are trying to not speak evil on a parent that has been kind of a dead beat, when you are trying to honor your In-laws that make you want to pull out your hair, when you are trying to honor the Saul in your life
 - Sometimes you need a why – and God gives one

I believe knowing this commandment would be hard to live out, because of the personal relationship aspect, God adds a blessing to this commandment

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.” – Exodus 20:12

- Why would you want to do that? –God promises you a full life
 - Now this can apply in a couple of ways – it can apply to length of years - Honoring your parents put you in a situation where long life is a better possibility

Why – your parents do know more than you – I know that is a shocker – but they do – and if you listen to them, your chances for a long life increase

- Jonathan and the light socket
 - He doesn't understand the current – But If he obeys his life gets longer, and if he doesn't well
- Now you say that's silly – I know not to do that

- You didn't when you were 2 and you thought your parents were crazy for stealing your blessing

Could it be – that the things they want from you today are the same, but you just don't see it

Mark Twain quote – **“When I was 16 I thought my dad was a fool, when I turned 21 I was amazed how much the old man had learned in 5 years” – isn't that the case (Picture of Mark Twain & Quote)**

- Your parents really do know more about the world than you give them credit for
 - And if you listen to them it will be a blessing
 - And if you don't – well a favorite verse of all parents should be Proverbs 30:17 – you parents know this one – oh let me help you...

“The eye that mocks a father and despises a mother will be plucked out by ravens of the valley and eaten by vultures.” – Proverbs 30:17

- I fully plan to use that verse when my kids get older – oh you're disrespecting your dad – hope there are no vultures outside – You know God's word doesn't return void – If it happens don't say I didn't warn you
 - In fact on a serious note, some of the worst curses in the Bible are on children who don't follow God's command to honor and obey their parents
- And understand why – again – God is not in heaven looking to judge you – He is not waiting for you to sin so He can pour out His wrath
 - As I have said before – that is the God Father not Father God
 - We quote the verse – Be sure your sin will find you out” – but notice, it is not God finding you out, God hunting you down – it is the sin
- Sin will kill you, sin will wreck you – and because of that, God who loves you – tells you to run from it

And a young man or woman that says, - I don't want to listen to mom or Dad – I don't want to follow what they are telling me – you are going to put yourself in dangerous situations

A child that does not obey and honor his parents is more prone to foolish mistakes that will get him in trouble

- so the promise is for a longer life
 - but far beyond that is it for a better life
 - again to use my son...

He has not been feeling real well. He was using the bathroom lots more – and yet today for breakfast he wanted dried prunes. – Now I told him no – because I understand what happens inside him as he eats prunes. And with his current condition that would not be good

- listen your parents now what happens inside you
 - and they give you guidance for where you are today in your life
 - and to the degree that you listen it, your life will be blessed
- it not just length of years, but fullness of years, a blessed life

- listen Jesus didn't live more than 33, 34 years – I am older than Jesus, well you know what I mean
- but I think, what a great example

I mean consider Jesus

- If there was ever a child who had every right to tell his parents what they should do it was Jesus

In Luke chapter 2, the Mary and Joseph bring 12 year old Jesus to Jerusalem – they leave and think he is with the others. They realize and come back and find him in the temple

Obviously upset, Jesus' parents question Jesus, to which He responds, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" – then it says - But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

- They didn't get it, but what did Jesus do?
 - Did He lecture them, point out how dumb they were
- No – verse 51 says, "Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

He was subject to His parents

- And God blessed Him because of it – made Him something different – in favor with God, in favor with men
 - His life was short, but full
 - Because He honored the role toward His parents

One other reason and I think this results in a blessing, is because what goes around comes around

- I think of that gross story in Genesis chapter 9
 - Noah plants a vineyard, Noah drinks of the fruit of that vineyard and Noah gets drunk and goes to sleep naked in his tent
 - Now – that is bad, but then it says that Ham, one of his sons, looked on his father's nakedness and went out and told his brothers

Now this shows that number one Ham is disgusting, I mean there are a lot of sins I understand, looking at your naked Dad is not one of them, never been a temptation for me

- But worse is that what Ham was doing in telling everyone, is He was exposing His Father's sin, He was doing the opposite of honoring your Father

And Noah wakes up and finds out what Ham has done, and he says, this, "Cursed be Canaan"

- Not cursed be Ham, cursed be Canaan
 - Now – Canaan was Ham's son
 - Why in the world would Noah curse Canaan when it was Ham that had sinned

Well the Jewish rabbis, the original scholars on the Old Testament would teach that the reason was because Ham's sin would be lived out in his son

- you see what the aged Patriarch was saying is because you are an idiot Ham, cursed is your son, because he is turning out just like you
 - and wait until you are old man, wait until you slip up
 - and just like you, my boy Ham, did not honor your Father, but exposed and mocked your Dad
 - What do you think your boy is going to do to you?

You see if you are under your parent's authority, you live in their house, you eat their food, you go to school on their dime, you need to honor and obey your Mom and Dad

- but they don't deserve it?
 - Hey, it is not about what they deserve, it's about what God is commanding you to do and God will bless you for obeying Him
 - He is worthy of your obedience

But for all of us, God's Word is honor our parents, to honor our in-laws, to honor those God puts in authority over us

- and my question for you is, what are we teaching our kids about how we treat our Mom and Dad?
 - Because you know that is how they will eventually treat you

What are we teaching them about honoring our in-laws, because that is how they are going to treat their in-laws someday?

- what are we teaching them about honoring authority in their lives in the way we talk about our bosses, our managers, our pastors
 - because understand that is how they will treat their boss, their pastor, and maybe even their God later in life
 - and will your example be a blessing to them, or will it be a curse

These commandments are not earning you salvation or even God's love

- they are how you experience the way God intended life to be
 - and if you will embrace them
 - you will be blessed, the next generation will be blessed
- The Ten – experiencing the Love of God as we keep His commandments – that is the big idea