

Invest some of our time into rethinking - **Think on what we think we know**

**With things that are important...we continue to develop our understanding**

Marriage...I've been married 20 years and imagine if I hadn't learned anything new

Newlywed, 'What have you learned' – Sick - I've learned that over the last 20 years...explain

Constantly rethink...**Why should I be obedient to God? Rethink Obedience**

**Why don't we like to talk about obedience? Avoiding Punishment | Receiving Reward**

**Big Idea – True Obedience is Rooted in Love** | PRAY | **Read a little...give a little commentary**

CONTEXT - <sup>28</sup>And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another,

Expert of the Law (Lawyer) – 1<sup>st</sup> not a group - Actively listening to Sadducees...Resurrection

and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

Question the motive of questioner – Not attempting discredit Jesus. Posed without guise of hypocrisy

he question is one that the greatest Rabbi's had committed themselves to answering

Tot. Law – 613 Pentateuch | 248 Positive Affirmations | 365 Negative Prohibitions | Heavy - Light

**imply stated – Is there a command need to pay greater attention to? How can I be obedient?**

Trying to follow 613 laws...you narrow the field? | **Rules...Christianity...obedient...just less**

**Jesus say...Come on man...its God...all important...equally...quit whining**

Jesus confirms there is a commandment *that isn't more important...but contains all the commands*

All of the 613 laws have an epicenter...Something heaviest...orbit around one single dense idea...**love**

**Any obedience that is not rooted in love is not true obedience**

**three identifiers of obedience rooted in love | True Obedience is Rooted in a Love That...**

.. **Knows the True God (29-30)**

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

before the command He gives a *statement of faith* – **Deuteronomy 6:4 – Scribe – Quoting the SHEMA**

The most fundamental expression of the Jewish faith – Six-word credal statement

Recited pious Jews everyday – Profound affirmation who God is – **God is God...He is God alone!**

**Why does Jesus start with the SHEMA? Whose command? Defining the object of our obedience**

God is God...God alone...He is the object of our obedience (30) **'and you shall love the Lord your God'**

The first half of the greatest commandment is All Your Obedience Must Be Because You Love God!

Imagine source everything good – blessing – wellspring peace – contentment – satisfaction = Santa Fe

You get on I-25 and start heading south...you'll never get there!

'I'm obedient to God but I don't love God...You're going the wrong way...you'll never truly get there!

Am I saying anyone who isn't a Christian has no concept of love? Reflected Image – Common Grace

**Love apart from an intimate, saving relationship with the Lord is underdeveloped and incomplete**

Because we know both the inventor of Love and the most precious and perfect expression love...

**Rom. 5:8 'God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us'**

**Text shows: HOW & DEGREE by finishing the Deuteronomy passage...**

<sup>2</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' – How = 'with' means 'From the source' Degree = 'all' – From the source of all you are!

o **How = Love isn't Lip Service - True Love: Intellectual | Emotional | Willful | Visible | WHOLE**

o **Degree = Striving not arriving – ALL...Has anyone arrived at all?**

**Vorkout one body part – All chest – Mike...traps...We have a default...grow in your deficiency | ME**

**Rethink our Obedience – Obedience that isn't rooted in a love for God...is fake and dangerous**

**Jn. 2:4-5 'Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, <sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.'**

If you have been adhering to religious acts of obedience because you fear temporal or eternal consequences, you're doing Christianity wrong | **Fear God out or Reverence not Reward**

Are there temporal consequences for sin? Absolutely! Choose to sin...choose to suffer

Are there eternal consequences for sin? Absolutely! Christ paid them all!

**If you're a parent you get this...do you want your kids to obey because they fear...or love?**

**MOTIVATION FOR OBEDIENCE MATTERS...WE ARE MOTIVATED BY OUR LOVE FOR GOD!**

**Jesus is saying the greatest command we can be obedient to is Love God and act like it...best way...**

2. **Demonstrates True Compassion (31) Jesus goes on to say...**

The second is: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Asked MOST IMPORTANT...Two – **Pastor one thing – Two sides the same coin - Leviticus 19:18** | Context:

• **Don't:** Steal | Deal Falsely | Oppress | Slander | Take Vengeance

• **Do:** Pay Wages Due | Care for the Disabled | Treat rich and poor in comparable righteousness

Leave some grain | Leave the grapes...poor and travelers

**Why don't we steal? Take Vengeance? Slander | Pay fair wages? Poor...hospitable | LOVE PEOPLE**

• Application built in - Love our neighbor as ourselves...intense – **I TAKE PRETTY GOOD CARE OF ME**

**I GIVE ME A LOT OF COMPASSION – Hurting...give break | Tired...give rest | Need...I'll Get it for me**

Radical - In need - Cared | Job - Compensated | Mistake - Grace | Bad day – Talked to

**WE DON'T LOVE OTHERS SELFISHLY! GIVING FEELS GOOD...GIVE BECAUSE YOU LOVE!**

Our Love of God is directly proportionate to loving others...you can't love God and not love others

**1 Jn. 4:7-8 - 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born**

**of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.**

Demonstrating True Compassion = Will cost you | Sacrificing for others | Doing what's right by others

**At all times...loving others will cost you and sometimes it will cost you greatly**

Loving God and Loving Others are inseparable commands!

Form a single command...envelop all commands to obedience – Exhaust concepts of righteousness

**Ten Commandments – First 4 Right Relationship w God | Last 6 Right Relationship w others | LOVE**

All 613 of your commands have a common denominator...Love...Love God...Love others!

Everything in our obedience to God has a common denominator...Love...Love God...Love others!

**True Obedience is Rooted in a Love That Knows the True God...Demonstrates True Compassion**

3. **Confesses the True Messiah (32-34)**

<sup>32</sup> And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. <sup>33</sup> And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to

**love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."**

Scribe agrees with Jesus...**smart play**...but he does so in a profound way...

• Loving God and Loving others is **'Much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices'**

It was the time of the Passover...expert of the Law's entire life revolved around offerings & sacrifices

**There is no purpose to the most sacred of sacrifices if not rooted in love**

It's a misunderstanding to believe Jesus and the Jews were locked in irreparable opposition

• Everything Jesus said and did was inseparably connected to the Jewish Law – Prophets – Wisdom  
He was and continues to be the absolute perfection & fulfillment of the Law – Sacrificial System

**Guy's starting to get it...get what...THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING GREATER THAN ANIMAL SACRIFICE**

• **In our world...there has to be something other than Good Works that bring closeness to God**

<sup>34</sup> And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

**How huge is that last step? For that Scribe to take that last step it would cost him EVERYTHING!**

• **How does this connect to you and me? Taking the final step could cost you everything**

o **What is that final step? Confessing Jesus is the True Messiah!**

**Jesus is the perfect example of God's Love and the ultimate reason we love**

**1 John 4:19 'We love because He first loved us'**

And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Jesus had stood up to the scrutiny of the Pharisees – Sadducees – Herodians – Answered a scribe

We don't know the outcome of the scribe...did he ever take that last step? We'll know in Heaven

**But you can be sure...GOSPEL**

**Why should I be obedient to God? Avoiding Punishment or Receiving Reward**

• True Obedience is Rooted in a Love that...

o Knows the True God

o Demonstrates True Compassion

o Confesses the True Messiah