

50+ Sunday School Class

All Saints Presbyterian Church
Austin, TX

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Life of Moses
Ten Commandments Addendum

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2021

Taught by Rev. Craig Chapman

Life of Moses – 11/21/21 – The Greatest Commandment

Prayer

Introduction

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Introduction

- Aristotle

*At his best, man is the noblest of all animals.
Separated from law and justice, he is the worst.*

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

*It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me,
but it can keep him from lynching me.*

The Greatest Commandment—What It Is, and Why?

The Sh'ma (or Shema)

Hear, O Israel, the LORD is our God, the LORD alone.

Love the LORD your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your might.

And love your neighbor as yourself.

Deuteronomy 5 – also the 10 Commandments

6 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 7 “You shall have no other gods before me.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Matthew 22:34-40

34 But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

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1 Corinthians 8:4-6

We know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” 5 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

Alphonse Maillot (French Theologian)

[I]n truth there are not ten commandments but one plus nine. One true, one great, one alone, and nine which develop it, explain it, and show its consequences.

Deuteronomy 5:7 – in various English translations:

- Amplified / ESV / NIV / NRSV
 - *You shall have no other gods before Me*
- Contemporary English
 - *Do not worship any god except me*
- Message
 - *No other gods, only me*
- NASB
 - *You shall have no other gods besides Me*
- New International Readers
 - *Do not put any other gods in place of me*
- New Living
 - *You must not have any other god but me*

Why Is This the Greatest Commandment?

1—God is Unique

2—We Are Unique

3—We Have Unique Privilege / Responsibility

Why Is This the Greatest Commandment?

1—God is Unique

- Covenant-Making/-Keeping

Why Is This the Greatest Commandment?

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- Covenant-Making/-Keeping
 - Wedding Vow – *In the name of God, I Dru, take you, Craig, to be my wedded husband, to have and hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, this I do promise and covenant, before God and these witnesses, according to God's holy Word.*

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- Not Created
- What He Offers

Why Is This the Greatest Commandment?

1—God is Unique

2—**We Are Unique**

- Bear God's Image
- Bear God's Covenant Love

Why Is This the Greatest Commandment?

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- Love Others

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- **Love Others**

Professor J. Douma at Kampen Theological University

“[From the time of ancient civilization to the present day] the entire development of technology would have been unimaginable apart from the Christian faith. If divine power lives in a tree, it would be hazardous to cut it down. If mother earth is a goddess, the mining industry would never have been developed. Had lightning been seen as something divine, the lightning rod would never have been invented. But these and many other possibilities all lay open before us when the world and everything in it no longer aroused fear, but became just the ordinary world that God created for us to use.”

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- **Love Others**

Tim Keller, *Ministries of Mercy*

“The concept of man as a gardener is highly suggestive: A gardener does not destroy nature, nor leave it as it is. He cultivates and develops it, enhancing its beauty, usefulness, and fruitfulness. So God expects his servants to bring all creation under his lordship. Science, engineering, art, education, government are all part of his responsibility. We are to bring every dimension of life, both spiritual and material, under the rule and law of God.”

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- Love Others & **Love God**

Dr. David W. Gill, at Fuller Seminary

Our gods are the things (or persons or ideas or powers) before which we bow down with our most sincere and profound respect. These questions help us identify the gods in our lives.... For what do we sacrifice time, money and effort? What is at the center of our lives, giving us meaning, purpose and direction? What truly motivates, awes and inspires us? What preoccupies us and focuses our attention? What defines our values and our philosophy of life? Where do we look for salvation, healing and freedom? What is it that we leap to defend if it is attacked, belittled or “profaned”?

Jesus Fulfills and Transforms the Whole Law

Matthew 5:17-20

*¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is **accomplished** [fulfilled]. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Jesus Fulfills and Transforms the Whole Law

1—Love God with all your self.

2—Don't make or worship images/idols.

John 3:16. Hebrews 1:3.

3—Don't take God's name in vain.

4—Keep a Holy Sabbath.

Genesis 2:2-3. John 19:28-30. Hebrews 4:9-10.

5—Honor your father & mother.

John 17:4. Matthew 3 & 17.

Jesus Fulfills and Transforms the Whole Law

6—Don't murder.

John 14:6.

7—Not adultery.

Ephesians 5:25-32.

8—Don't steal.

Hebrews 1:2. Romans 8:14-17; 3:8. Philippians 4:19.

9—Don't bear false witness.

John 14:6.

10—Don't covet.

Matthew 15:19-20. John 7:38. Psalm 51:10-12.

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... and in so doing, He Transforms Us!

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Hymn – Love Constraining to Obedience, by William Cowper

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*How long beneath the law I lay in bondage and distress!
I toiled thy precept to obey, but toiled without success.*

“What shall I do” was then the word, that I may worthier grow?”

“What shall I render to the Lord?” is now what I would know.

*How long beneath the Law I lay a righteousness to raise;
Now, freely chosen in the Son, I freely choose his ways.*

*To see the law by Christ fulfilled, and hear his pard’ning voice,
Changes a slave into a child, and duty into choice.*

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Q & A / Discussion

Prayer Requests

Next Class on 1/9/22