

Deuteronomy 5:16-33 - Thursday, May 26th, 2011

(16) 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

- As a child, my parents made me memorize this particular commandment. Now as a parent, I plan to do the same with all my children.
- This fifth commandment has something none of the other commandments have; it's the first and only commandment with a promise.

Ephesians 6:1-3 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"-which is the first commandment with a promise- 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." NIV

- This brings up an interesting question; "why does obeying this, of all the commandments, lead to a long, blessed, and fulfilled life?"
- One commentator has suggested that back then, dishonoring your parents was so serious that the child would be put to death.
- I suggest to you that there are two reasons for this, first there's a spiritual reason, and second, there's a physiological reason for this.

- Like Jesus, Who was one with the Father spiritually, so too are we spiritually connected to, and reflective of, our father and our mother.
- If we disobey and dishonor our parents, we're in fact tearing ourselves down because of our spiritual reflection and connection to them.

John 5:19-23 19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. 21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. 22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. NIV

- Just as there is a spiritual connection, so too is there a physical, emotional, and physiological connection genetically to our parents.
- When we dishonor them, we dishonor ourselves, and it takes its toll on us and will negatively impact the quality and length of our lives.
- One has to look no further than to the ruined lives of those who dishonored and disrespected their parents to their own peril, even death.

- As you might imagine, this often begs the question of when the parent is abusive; are children still required to obey, and honor them?
 1. No, it is never ok for a parent to abuse a child.
 2. Children should not obey parents if it means they will be sinning against the Lord.
 3. There is a difference between honoring and respecting; honor is given, respect is earned.
 4. Jesus was abused, not by His Father, but for the forgiveness of the sins of man.

Isaiah 53:4-7 4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. NIV

- In other words, God can take the bad and make it good. God the Father can smite and afflict God the Son for the salvation of mankind.
- I don't know "how" He does it I do know "that" He does it. I can testify to this; "No matter how bad it is, it can't change how good God is!"
- Who can know the mind of God? He may deem it necessary to allow something bad to happen, because He has a good end in mind.

(17) 'You shall not murder.

- Notice that it does not say; "you shall not kill," it say's; "you shall not murder." There is a difference between killing and murdering.
- Murder is the taking of one's life without legal justification whereas killing someone as in the death penalty, is justified after due process.
- What about in war? This is also justified morally as in the case of killing in self defense. In this case, I have the right to defend myself.

- Jesus raised the bar on this and the other commandments by saying that hating someone is like murdering them in our hearts.
- In other words, we can have so much anger for, and hatred towards someone, we can actually wish that they were dead in our hearts.

"Anger, and the doing of anything injurious to the health of ourselves or others, are here forbidden. ...These commandments take a far wider sweep than the mere words. "Thou shalt not murder" includes the doing of anything by which life may be shortened as well as taken away."

Charles Spurgeon

(18) 'You shall not commit adultery.

- This commandment is a serious one, which is why Jesus said that we must take drastic measures in dealing with it.

Matthew 5:27-30 27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. NIV

- Why is sexual sin so serious that it would require that we do whatever it takes so as to not be thrown into hell because of it?

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. NIV

- Perhaps one of the most, if not the most powerful sin that has led to many a downfall, is the sin of sexual immorality.
- Sometimes the ones who you would think are the strongest in this area end up being the ones who end up falling in this area.

(19) 'You shall not steal.

- This commandment is very straight forward. Don't steal anything from anyone at anytime in anyway. Well, you say, I don't.
- Actually, yes, we can be guilty of breaking this commandment in ways that we may have not considered before: Consider this story:

Several years ago, a pastor from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, 'You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it.' Then he thought, 'Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.' When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, 'Here, you gave me too much change.' The driver, with a smile, replied, 'Aren't you the new pastor in town?' 'Yes' he replied. 'Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday.' When the pastor stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, 'Oh God, I almost sold out your Son by stealing a quarter.'

Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

- There's actually another way we can be guilty of breaking the "You shall not steal," commandment. We can actually steal from God.

Malachi 3:8-12 8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse-the whole nation of you-because you are robbing me. 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. 11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. 12 "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty. NIV

It's been said that; "If you want to take the pulse of your faith, there are many places to look— beginning with your checkbook. The church counts what we give; God counts what we keep."

(20) 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

- Bearing false witness is not just telling a lie, but being tricky with the truth. It's been said that a half truth is a whole lie.
- It's also been said that we can give the right information but with the wrong implication all because of our evil motivation.
- This commandment can be broken by slander, talebearing, questioning someone's motives, creating false impressions, or even silence.

"Slander . . . is a lie invented and spread with intent to do harm. That is the worst form of injury a person can do to another. Compared to one who does this, a gangster is a gentleman, and a murderer is kind, because he ends life in a moment with a stroke and with little pain. But the man guilty of slander ruins a reputation which may never be regained, and causes lifelong suffering. . . ."Talebearing . . . is repeating a report about a person without careful investigation. Many, many times I have known what it is to suffer with that. To repeat a story which brings discredit and dishonor to another person without making sure of the facts, is breaking this commandment . . . How many people, especially Christian people, revel in this, and delight in working havoc by telling tales about others. To excuse the action by saying they believed the report to be true, or that there was no intention to malign, is no justification. . . .What about inappropriate silence? "When someone utters a falsity about another and a third person is present who knows that statement to be untrue but, for reasons of fear or being disliked, remains quiet, that third person is as guilty of breaking this law as if he had told a lie. What a startling revelation it would be if a tape recording could be played of all that every church member has said about his fellow members in one week!"

Alan Redpath

Many years ago in a small European Jewish village a man had become dissatisfied with the local rabbi. He engaged in gossip about the rabbi all over town. As time went by, the rabbi became very sick and was on his deathbed. The man was convicted about his gossiping and didn't want the rabbi to die with the bad blood between them so he went to the rabbi, confessed his sin and asked for forgiveness. He asked if there was anything he could do to undo the damage his gossip had caused. "Of course, I will forgive you," the old man said, "and these something you can do if you are willing." "Anything," the repentant gossip anxiously replied. "I want to take a sack of chicken feathers," came the request, "go up on the big hill on the outside of town and release them into the wind." Thinking this was a very odd request indeed but wanting to demonstrate his contrition, the man did exactly as asked. He returned to the rabbi and asked him if there was anything else. "Just one thing," the dying man said. "I want you to go and pick up all the feathers." "That's impossible!" the offender exclaimed. "There is no way to pick up all the feathers. There is no way of knowing where the wind has taken them." "Neither is it possible for you to undo the damage of gossip," the rabbi responded.

(21) 'You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that *is* your neighbor's.'

- Covetousness, simply put, is the wanting what someone else has. This commandment is broken when we just desire it and covet it.

Luke 12:15 15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." NKJV

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF COVETOUSNESS

- In leadership: Moses from Miriam and Aaron who became jealous of him.
- In performance: David from Saul because of the 10's of thousands.
- In family: the prodigal son from his brother because his father threw a feast.
- In ministry: Joseph from his brothers because of the call on his life.
- In opposition: Mordechai from Haman, they ended up trading places.

- Having just gone through the 10 Commandments, for the second time, we can wrap them up with Jesus fulfilling and reducing 10 to two.

Matthew 22:37-40 37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets **hang** on these two commandments." NIV

- By the way, let me parenthetically say, that these two hang on these two commandments and in so doing paint a picture of the cross.
 - Loving the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind vertically, allows the second, loving my neighbor as myself, to hang horizontally.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS	JESUS
1-Thou shalt have no other gods before me.	Matthew 4:10 "You must worship the Lord your God; serve only him."
2-Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...	Luke 16:13 "No one can serve two masters."
3-Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain...	Matthew 5:34 "But I say, don't make any vows! If you say, 'By heaven!' it is a sacred vow because heaven is God's throne."
4-Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...	Mark 2:27, 28 "The Sabbath was made to benefit people and not people to benefit the Sabbath. And I, the Son of Man, am master even of the Sabbath!"
5-Honour thy father and thy mother...	Matthew 10:37 "If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine."
6-Thou shalt not kill.	Matthew 5:22 "If you are angry with someone, you are subject to judgment!"
7-Thou shalt not commit adultery.	Matthew 5:28 "Anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart."
8-Thou shalt not steal.	Matthew 5:40 "If you are ordered to court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too."
9-Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.	Matthew 12:36 "You must give an account on judgment day of every idle word you speak."
10-Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house...	Luke 12:15 "Don't be greedy for what you don't have."

(22) "These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me. (23) "So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, that you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders. (24) And you said: 'Surely the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he *still* lives. (25) Now therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the LORD our God anymore, then we shall die. (26) For who *is there* of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we *have*, and lived? (27) You go near and hear all that the LORD our God may say, and tell us all that the LORD our God says to you, and we will hear and do *it*.' (28) "Then the LORD heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the LORD said to me: 'I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They are right *in* all that they have spoken.

- Moses rounds a corner and talks about how the Lord spoke to all their assembly in the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice.
- In so doing, God's glory was so great and even consuming, they tell Moses that if they hear God's voice anymore, they will most certainly die.
- Then, in what is sort of humorous, they tell Moses to go and hear what it is that God has to say, and come back and tell them so they can do it.
- Actually, this is yet another picture of how it is with us, we need our, greater than Moses, Jesus, to be our mediator before God, lest we die.

(29) Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever! (30) Go and say to them, "Return to your tents." (31) But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe *them* in the land which I am giving them to possess.' (32) "Therefore you shall be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. (33) You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and *that it may be* well with you, and *that* you may prolong *your* days in the land which you shall possess.

- Notice the "if they," then I," that's woven into the fabric of these verses. In other words, if they would have obeyed then God would have blessed.
- Sadly, forty days from the time they received God's law, they would be worshipping at, and dancing around the Egyptian calf god made of gold.
- It's really quite simple, and I'm sure you tire of me repeating it, but a life lived in obedience to God, is a life that is full of all blessings from God.