

## “Linchpin” - Part 3: Love God (7-15-2018)

**New Series:** Linchpin – A Study of the Book of Deuteronomy: Know what anchors you, and living accordingly!

**Last Week: Grab the Baton** - Consider your past, and the history of your family (you fit into a larger narrative). Reflect on the victories & failures of your history, and ultimately see God’s faithfulness through the ups and downs.

**Today: Love God** (carrying the baton)

**Introduction:** (Maybe a funny story about following the letter of the law)

1) **Jesus and the Law** - Let’s start where we left off last week . . .

### Deuteronomy 4:1-2 (ESV)

(1) And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. (2) You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.

- God of your Fathers – He is your God! And He has instructions for your benefit (that you may live!)
- Follow His full counsel – don’t add to it or remove from it.

**Jesus speaks to this idea of fulfilling the fullness of the Law in Matthew’s gospel . . .**

### Matthew 5:17 (ESV)

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.

**Notes:** The Greek word for “Fulfill” means . . .

- Particularly, to fill a vessel or hollow place (there is something missing!)
- Figuratively, to fill, supply abundantly with something, impart richly

### Matthew 5:18-20 (ESV)

(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. (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.

**Notes:** Something is wrong with the world . . . therefore, something is wrong with me!

- In order to protect us, teach us, help us, and make the best of things in a broken world. We are given the Law, because we are too broken to love well and love always.
- Consider – we all understand the concept of fulfilling the “spirit” of the law. There is an idea behind any law, which the law is there to either protect or empower.

Moses continues in Deuteronomy 4 with 2 key points summarized by these 2 verses . . .

### **Deuteronomy 4:9, 31 (ESV)**

(9) "Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children . . .  
(31) For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.

**Notes:** Take care of your soul, and when you don't there are consequences in life, but ultimately God is merciful

Now . . . In Chapter 5 of Deuteronomy, Moses restates God's Law (The 10 Commandments)

## **2) Jesus, the Law, and Me – let's look at the story of Jesus & the man known as "The rich, young ruler" . . .**

### **Matthew 19:16-20 (ESV)**

(16) And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" (17) And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." (18) He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, (19) Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (20) The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?"

### **Mark 10:21-23 (ESV)**

(21) And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." (22) Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. (23) And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

**Notes:** Let's reflect on their conversation . . .

- Which commandments had the man fulfilled? (6 – those related to people)
- What are the other 4? All pertaining to our relationship with God! (Deut. 5:6-15)
  - No other gods
  - No carved images – no false versions of god / chasing other idols (or ideals)
  - Don't take God's name in vain
  - Remember the Sabbath & keep it holy – why?

### **Deuteronomy 5:15 (ESV)**

You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

**Notes:** It appears that this man didn't really love God, but we know that God loved him!

Unlike the rich young ruler going away sad, in Deuteronomy 5 upon hearing the law, The People respond in awe, gratitude, and respect for God and His Word to them – so they walk in humility before God (Deut. 5:24-29).

**Compare this to parenting your kids:** At a young age, they learn to trust you & obey rules they don't understand.

You are the one who has to run your house, care for everyone, and groom your child so they have a functional and healthy life! Try explaining that to a 2 year old, not to mention a 10 year old.

Well that is the place you and I are in with God. But man our pride hates to hear that!!!

If we will learn to approach God with humility, respect, and love; trusting that He truly loves us, then . . .

### 3) God's Law of Love

#### Deuteronomy 5:29 (ESV)

Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!

**Notes:** This leads to God's blessing, and a more detailed and intimate conversation between God & Moses that is then shared with the people . . .

#### Deuteronomy 5:31, 33 (ESV)

(31) But you, stand here by me, and I will tell you the whole commandment and the statutes and the rules that you shall teach them, that they may do them in the land that I am giving them to possess . . . (33) You shall walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.

**Notes:** This leads into **Deut. 6** – a pivotal passage about how to approach living out God's Law, and passing it on!

#### Deuteronomy 6:4-6 (ESV)

(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. (6) And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

**Notes:** Deut. 6 continues: this Law is so on their hearts, that they live them, talk about them, & pass them on!

This is exactly what Jesus is talking about and quotes when he is asked what is the most important command of all!

#### Mark 12:28-30 (ESV)

(28) And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" (29) Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. (30) 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.'

**Notes:** When God's love really grabs ahold of us, it will permeate into all areas of our life (next week – 2<sup>nd</sup> half)

**Conclusion:** The Law of God, when properly understood is a path to walk in the love of God, which only Jesus can fulfill in us and through us!