



Sermon Overview

The nation of Israel was delivered from Egyptian slavery and shown the meritless love of God. For those who understood that rescue, the scene at the end of Exodus 20 must have been frightening and confusing.

The demands on our life made by God through his word can also seem frightening and confusing. As creations of God that bear his image, we can see the grace in his perfect instruction. But, with his instruction comes the expectation of perfect obedience. It is in this context that all of God's people experience the overwhelming power of God's saving grace and begin to understand a new way forward in Jesus.

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Getting Started

Discuss a time when you ignored (or under utilized) an opportunity to learn a skill or information that you later regretted. What changed between the missed opportunity and the regret?

Starting with God

1. How is God's law an expression of his grace?
2. Remembering that Exodus is telling us not only the story of the salvation of Israel from slavery in Egypt but also the story of our salvation from sin, what can we learn from this order of events: the people were (1) saved and were (2) made God's treasured possession and then they were (3) given the law?

Living God's Word

3. Read Exodus 20:18-21 and let it create an image in your mind of the setting at the base of Mt. Sinai. How would you feel about God in this setting and the law he's just given? What do fear, grace and wisdom have in common?

4. God's law reveals to us his character and nature. This revelation reminds us of our created purpose, as well as how we interact with other people. What fact (from Genesis 1:26-27) makes God's law binding on all people?

5. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "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. . . . For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:17, 20). In what ways did Jesus fulfill the Ten Commandments? And how can a person's righteousness exceed the meticulous law keeping of the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus's day?

6. Take a moment and reread Exodus 20:1-17 and Matthew 5:17-20. Discuss transparently how seriously you consider the 10 Commandments. How do your thoughts on the previous statement impact your worship for what Jesus has done to fulfill the commandments?

Prayer

*Father God, give our hearts a love for what you love.
Help us to see the beautiful perfection of your law and our desperate need for Jesus.
Amen.*

*Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.
How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Psalm 119:97, 103*