

10 Words of Grace. A Study of the Ten Commandments.

Week #1: Exodus 19. Setting the Scene

September 09, 2018

If you asked your neighbor what they thought of the 10 Commandments, you would probably get two responses. The first is that they are generally a good set of rules to follow. The second, however, would be that they have little if any idea of what the Commandments specifically say - people generally know they allude to 'the golden rule', but really don't know much more than that.

Most of us don't think about the Commandments much anymore ... if we're honest, we might say that they make us feel a bit guilty about our behavior. This fall, however, I want to challenge us to look at them *not* as a set of guilt-inducing Commands, but rather as words of grace from our loving Father in Heaven. Let's learn to see them as a beautiful mountain range that stands vigil over us generation after generation. And let us more importantly see that they point us carefully to God's grace poured out in Jesus Christ. *The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ.* (Galatians 3:24).

Questions:

1. Take a moment and test yourself:
 - a. Where in the Bible are the 10 Commandments found?
 - b. List the Commandments that you can remember?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
 7. _____
 8. _____
 9. _____
 10. _____
 - c. When Jesus was asked which of the 10 Commandments was the greatest, which one did He choose?

Read Exodus 19:1 - 20:21

2. Reflect on the context of how the Ten Commandments were given to the nation of Israel. Had you been there, what would have been your thoughts and feelings?
3. What does God look like in these verses? Are you afraid of Him? Drawn to Him? Indifferent? Does this picture mesh easily with your New Testament understanding of God? Why/why not?
4. Which of the Commandments do you find easiest to embrace? Which are more difficult? Which have you struggled to keep? Why?
5. How have the 10 Commandments helped draw you closer to God, and to the grace found through His Son, Jesus?
6. Pray and thank God for His deep love and concern for you. Thank Him for giving you such valuable instruction, designed to protect you and others in the life He's given to you.