

DEUTERONOMY 5

January 29, 2012

Introduction:

Today we will study **chapter five** of the book of **Deuteronomy**. In this chapter Moses again reminds the people of the Ten Commandments. He also tells them about how God revealed Himself at Mount Sinai (*SEYE-neye*).

How would you answer the person who claims that the Ten Commandments are Old Testament and, therefore, no longer relevant to us today? They might even quote **Matthew 5:17 that says that Jesus came to *fulfill the law and the prophets*.**

- The “Law” that Jesus fulfilled was the ceremonial law that included all of the sacrifices and offerings, which were pictures of and were fulfilled by His death. He did not abolish God’s moral laws or his civil laws. Turn to and read **Matthew 5:17-19**. [17 “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the Law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. 18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. 19 So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.] **NLT**

In today’s lesson, God gives Moses the Ten Commandments. Are these commandments still relevant today?

- Absolutely! God’s laws are timeless. Since He is eternal, all knowing, and perfectly wise, God knows that His laws are relevant in any culture at any point in history.

What is the purpose of God’s laws?

- God’s laws have two purposes: (1) they reveal His character. His laws tell us how we are to live since we are to be like Him. Jesus invites us into living a certain way, not just having certain “beliefs” about God. (2) They cause us to recognize our need for a Savior (Jesus). See **Romans 3:20** [20 For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.] [**And Galatians 3:21 & 24**. [21 Is there a conflict, then, between God’s law and God’s promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it. [24: Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. **NLT**

Are God’s laws “good” or “bad”? Explain your answer.

- God is good. All of His intentions are good. Therefore, all of His laws are good. If He tells us to do something, then doing that something will bless us. If He tells us not to do a certain thing, then doing that thing will hurt us. Sin hurts people...God loves people...so God hates sin. All of God’s laws are “protective”; they are not “restrictive”.

God gave Adam and Eve one rule. What did they think about that rule and, therefore, about God who gave it?

- The one rule was not to eat of the forbidden tree. They decided that it was a bad, restrictive rule that was keeping them from a better life. In doing so they assumed that God was not good, did not love them well, and that doing what God wanted was ultimately a bad idea that would keep them from their best life possible.

Were Adam and Eve right or wrong?

- They were “dead” wrong. They “died” spiritually that day. They became sinners who were now afraid of and opposed to God that day. They began to have guilt and shame and they turned on each other that day. They lost “paradise” (Eden) that day. This is how sin always works: it promises us “more” but leaves us with “less”. See **John 10:10**. [10 The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.] **NLT** God is the “giver”; the devil is the taker.

5:7-21 Let’s read through the Ten Commandments in **verses 7 to 21**. [7 “You must not have any other god but me. 8 “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind, or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. 9 You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. 10 But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those* who love me and obey my commands. 11 “You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name. 12 “Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. 13 You have six days each week for your ordinary work, 14 but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your oxen and donkeys and other livestock, and any foreigners living among you. All your male and female servants must rest as you do. 15 Remember that you were once slaves in Egypt, but the Lord your God brought you out with his strong hand and powerful arm. That is why the Lord your God has commanded you to rest on the Sabbath day. 16 “Honor your father and mother, as the Lord your God commanded you. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you. 17 “You must not murder. 18 “You must not commit adultery. 19 “You must not steal. 20 “You must not testify falsely against your neighbor. 21 “You must not covet your neighbor’s wife. You must not covet your neighbor’s house or land, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor. **NLT**

The Ten Commandments divide up into two categories. What are they and which commandments belong to each?

- The first four categories have to do with how we relate to God; the last six have to do with how we relate to man.

Read Luke 18:18-24. [18 Once a religious leader asked Jesus this question: “Good Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?” 19 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked him. “Only God is truly good. 20 But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. Honor your father and mother.’” 21 The man replied, “I’ve carefully obeyed all these commandments since I was young.” 22 When Jesus heard his answer, he said, “There is still one thing you haven’t done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” 23 But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. 24 When Jesus saw this,* he said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God! **NLT**: What do you notice about the commandments Jesus mentioned in **verse 20**?

- They all had to do with how we relate to people.

How does what Jesus told the man to do in **verse 24** relate to the **Ten Commandments**?

- The man failed to put God first. Gold was this man’s “god”; he worshipped and served money.

Why did Jesus leave out the command on coveting?

- He was rich. He did not covet what others possessed because he had more; others coveted what this man had.

Why did Jesus say what He did in **verse 19**?

- Jesus was giving the man an opportunity to confess that Jesus was good because He *was* God.

Had this young man actually kept all of the commands mentioned by Jesus since his youth?

- **No.** He had likely broken all of those laws since his youth.

Is there a difference between the “letter” of the law and the “spirit” of the law? Explain.

- The letter of the law is what the law clearly states; we are not to commit murder; we are not to have sex with another person’s spouse, we are not to take something that does not belong to us. The spirit of the law is the full and deeper meaning of the command. The “letter”: don’t murder; the “spirit”: don’t hate (**Matthew 5:21-22**). The “letter”: don’t commit adultery; the “spirit”: don’t lust (**Matthew 5:27-28**). The “letter”: don’t make oaths and vows; the “spirit”: keep your word (**Matthew 5:33-37**).

Has anyone ever actually kept the “spirit” of all of the Ten Commandments?

- Jesus did. **2 Corinthians 5:21** says that He *knew no sin*. **Hebrews 4:15** tells us that Jesus *was tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin*. **See Romans 3:10 & 23**. [**10** As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous—not even one. [**23** For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. [NLT](#)]

What we are going to do next is to read each of the Ten Commandments and then see how Jesus stated these commands in the New Testament.

Deuteronomy 5:7 “You must not have any other god but me.

Matthew 4:10 “Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’”

Deuteronomy 5:8-10 **8** “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind, or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. **9** You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. **10** But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those* who love me and obey my commands.

Luke 16:13 “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Deuteronomy 5:11 “You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.

Matthew 5:34 But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, ‘By heaven!’ because heaven is God’s throne.

Deuteronomy 5:12-15 **12** “Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. **13** You have six days each week for your ordinary work, **14** but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your oxen and donkeys and other livestock, and any foreigners living among you. All your male and female servants must rest as you do. **15** Remember that you were once slaves in Egypt, but the Lord your God brought you out with his strong hand and powerful arm. That is why the Lord your God has commanded you to rest on the Sabbath day.

Mark 2:27-28 **27** Then Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath. **28** So the Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath!”

Deuteronomy 5:16 “Each year every man in Israel must celebrate these three festivals: the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Harvest, and the Festival of Shelters. On each of these occasions, all men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he chooses, but they must not appear before the Lord without a gift for him.

Matthew 10:37 “If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine.

Deuteronomy 5:17 “You must not murder.

Matthew 5:21-22 ²¹ “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ ²² But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

Deuteronomy 5:18 You must not commit adultery.

Matthew 5:27-28 ²⁷ “You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Deuteronomy 5:19 “You must not steal.

Matthew 5:40 If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too.

Deuteronomy 5:20 “You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

Matthew 12:36 And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak.

Deuteronomy 5:21 “You must not covet your neighbor’s wife. You must not covet your neighbor’s house or land, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

Luke 12:15 Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

What are the kinds of things that can become “idols” in our lives?

- (People, money, possessions, traditions, addictions, etc.)

Is the Sabbath, a day for worship and rest, still important to God and to us today?

Yes! We are not to live under ridiculous standards of legalism (**Mark 2:27**), but we are to rest and take a day to remind ourselves that God *is* and that we are His. The Sabbath was on the seventh day: they rested after they worked. The “**Lord’s Day**” is **Sunday** (the first day): we rest and worship and *then* we work.

Does honoring our parents mean that now as adults we do whatever they say?

- No! Adult Christians should not be controlled or manipulated by emotionally unhealthy parents. This command does not give parents the right to do anything they want to do and then have no consequences for their bad behavior. This command does not mean that you become financially responsible for their irresponsibility. It does not mean that they have a *right* to live in your house and that you owe it to them to pay their bills. Some parents are so emotionally unhealthy or evil that their grown, healthy children must protect themselves and their families (mate and children) from those parents.

Does the command not to “murder” mean that we are not to “kill”? Explain.

- To murder someone is take the life of someone for wrong reasons. This command does not prohibit killing animals for food (**Genesis 9:3**). It does not prohibit capital punishment. **Romans 13:4** tells us that the government *does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil*. The books of the Law (Genesis through Deuteronomy) are filled with crimes that Israel was to punish by death to *purge the evil* from among them. If someone breaks into your home and you kill the intruder, then you are not guilty of murder or a crime (**Exodus 22:2**).

5:22-28 In **verses 22 to 28** Moses reminds them that they (the people) were afraid of God's voice and asked that God would speak to them through Moses. You can never dispute what God clearly says to you. If a person tells you what God says, though, you can discount what you're hearing because it is through a human being and not directly from God.

5:29,33 What do we learn from **verses 29 and 33**?

- *IF* we live as God tells us to live, *THEN* (and only then) can we be assured of His blessing in our lives: it will *be well with* us. If we live God's way, teach our children to live God's way, and they actually live God's way, then it will be well with them.