

June 11th, 2023  
**Complicated**  
Exodus 20

## Open with prayer

### ***Read for insight into the scripture***

Following Jesus is not this extreme sport in the way that you have to know exactly what to do and there are all these tips and tricks and hacks to become good at it. Following Jesus is a “long obedience in the same direction,” as Eugene Peterson calls it. Sometimes we get so caught up in “rules and regulations” that we never feel like we can be enough. While sometimes we just slap “Christian” on as a title, but it doesn’t actually mean anything for the way we live our lives. We spend our time judging others for “not doing it right.” We condemn other denominations and individuals for being convicted by things that we are not or for not being convicted by things that we think are harmful.

In our time in Exodus, up till now, the Hebrew people had no real regulations or laws, they only had Moses leading them and God saying follow me.

In today's passage, God is ready to speak to the Hebrew people, and what does he give them. Order.

He says to them. I have been asking you to follow me, here are ways that you can line your life up with my desire for you, PRACTICALLY.

As you read together, think of bowling. Think of these commandments like bumpers on an alley that make it more likely for the Hebrew people to get a strike.

We want you to remember that Christ came to FULFILL this law, not abolish it. Christ came as a walking picture of living in alignment with God's desires. While we are not BOUND by the Old Testament laws, sometimes they are a good place to start when we are asking ourselves, “What does it look like to abide in Christ?” Or “How can I begin my journey of trying to look more like Jesus to the World?”

### ***Read Together***

#### ***Exodus 20 :1-21***

- **What stands out to you?**
- **If we look at these commands, let's look at vs 2-7. What are these commands mostly about?**
  - **Looking at your life, are there any things, people, roles you have, or places, that you have set up before you that are idols, or potential idols for you?**
  - **Do you have a hard time understanding or living into the truth that you are an image bearer of God? Why or why not?**

Andrew made the statement, "Those things we make, from iPhones, to careers, from cars to political parties...if they were made by humans...if we think they will save, satisfy, or fulfill us, they won't. They are not God. Don't worship them."

**Now Looking at vs. 12-17, What are these commands primarily about?**

- *If you said, our relationship with others, you would be right.*
- ***Examining your life, are there any relationships that cause you to struggle with anger, or talking bad about people? Do you find it hard to not share (unhelpful) info about others with others? Are there people you look at enviously or judgmentally and you can't seem to stay quiet about it? Why do you think this is such a struggle for us?***
- ***Why do we have a hard time seeing others as image bearers?***
- ***Now, Look at vs 8. what is right in the middle of these two sections of commands?***
- ***The 10 Commandments start with God giving directions about how we relate to Him. Then He calls us to rest in Him. Then He calls us into right relationship with one another. Why might this order be important?***

*We are believers in Jesus' redemptive work. After the Israelites got these 10 commands, there are more laws and regulations. Apparently more and more bumpers were needed and they ended up with another 603 regulations. God in his kindness demonstrated exactly what it looked like to live out the commandments in Jesus and to make it all right. This doesn't mean that God doesn't desire for us to continue to walk and live a righteous life. It means we have to commune with the LORD; to slow down, to listen and understand that through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Law is now fulfilled in Jesus and we are now the temple of God - home to the Holy Spirit. To wear the name of Jesus is a great joy and great responsibility. Some of us want a list of rules, but the Lord has given us all we need through the Spirit in us...are you listening to what He is calling you to? I am not referring to plans, I am talking about how you interact with all the other image bearers and on behalf of the world that he created. He taught us to pray, "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven." How are we bringing the Kingdom on Earth?*

- ***Our faith was never truly about rules or regulations, but about relationship with God. Are you spending time investing in your relationship with God or are you getting lost in the weeds following rabbit trails that don't lead to life?***

## ***Pray together***

### ***Practice:***

If it is your practice to spend time with the Lord in the morning in scripture and prayer, take a few extra minutes to settle your heart in that time. Think about if there is any space in that time where you aren't rushing to learn or take in content, or ask something of God. Is there any time that you have carved out to sit in the silence, ask the Lord to lead your steps, and just be quiet with him? Maybe unplug on a walk this week, and instead of listening to a podcast you just try and notice the presence of the

Lord. Maybe instead of turning on the radio in your car, you drive in silence and ask the Lord to lead your interactions for the day. Maybe even challenge yourself, instead of or before turning on any news or tv show that is trying to tell you how you should think, to walk outside or kneel beside your bed and ask the Lord to direct your thoughts in His way. Ask for wisdom and discernment, then just be still.

Anyone have any thoughts or questions?

## **Prayer Request and closing Prayer**

Ask if anyone has any prayers they would like to add to our prayer team, report back to Sarah. [sarah@thechapelatseaside.com](mailto:sarah@thechapelatseaside.com)

### **Quotes from Sermon:**

John Mark Comer says,

***“That’s why Sabbath is an expression of faith. Faith that there is a Creator and he’s good. We are his creation. This is his world. We live under his roof, drink his water, eat his food, breathe his oxygen. So on the Sabbath, we don’t just take a day off from work; we take a day off from toil. We give him all our fear and anxiety and stress and worry. We let go. We stop ruling and subduing, and we just be. We “remember” our place in the universe. So that we never forget . . . There is a God, and I’m not him.”***

Tim Mackie from the Bible project says,

***“Yahweh has already created an image of himself: humans. He’s preserving both the sanctity of his own worship and the responsibility of humans to bear his image. When humans make idols and worship them, they’re not only investing in a created thing the reverence and glory that should only belong to Yahweh, but robbing themselves of their own dignity as God’s image bearers.”***