

Lay Down The Law, pt 2

Intro

- Exodus until now.
- Review last week, blast through.
- The Law was not given to save, but to show Israel their need for the Lord, our need for Jesus.
- The Law functions as part body guard, part tour guide, leading us to Jesus.
- The Law is no longer "over our heads" because it's righteous requirements have been met through Jesus.
- The Law gives us a look into the hearts and mind of God, a description of God's best for us in Jesus.
- What does the Lord want from us? Greatest commandment, worship in Spirit and truth, love one another, obey out of love not fear.

Exodus 20 - 10 Monkeys

- **20:1-2** God identifies Himself. Makes sense to do that up front. Need reminders.
 - I am the one who has done this for you. Remember my promise and power.
 - What might He say to someone today? "I am the LORD your God, who created the heavens and the earth, who created you because it made Me happy to do so, because I want to have a relationship with you."
 - Sets the context for the first four commandments. "Here is some of My best for you."
- **20:3** 1st Commandment
 - **gods** - Are there other gods? Either fallen angels or Satan in various forms. Supernatural beings to be sure, but not equal to or simply opposite of God. Amon-Ra, Baal, Gaia, all distractions from the one true God, the LORD.
 - **before** - not ordinal, means in the presence of, in the face/eyes of
 - Is God saying that there is only one way? Yup! Narrow minded and intolerant? Only as much as someone who says 2+2=4.
 - There is a built-in hypocrisy, self-refutation, contradiction, in our culture's view on diversity and tolerance. **Not an issue of style or uniformity, but worldview.**
 - Everyone wants one system, unity, even those who say anything goes. That in itself is one system. Really? Anarchy?
 - Anything goes so long as no one get hurts. Aha!
 - **When you apply an absolute conditional on an otherwise relative truth, it is no longer relative, it is absolute.** You are pushing your view on others in the name of tolerance and diversity. **That is the hypocrisy, the contradiction.**
 - To say that all things are true, is to say that none of them are true. There is no such thing as "true for me/you". Try that when you get caught B&E. You can try and believe the law is not an authority over you while you are sitting in jail.
 - Work in coexist and tolerance stickers. Self refuting statements.
 - Internal vs. external basis for truth.
 - If we could all obey just the two commandments Jesus highlighted, the world would be a fabulous place. But we can't not on our own.

- Why is this difficult? People we don't understand the real issue, the real problem. Sin nature. Sickness with one cure. Would you turn it down?
- I don't believe all of this because I want it to be true. It's very hard sometimes. I believe it because it is true. **John 14:6**. The life, not the drag. New nature. **One God, our Creator, who loves us and knows what's best for us.**
- **20:4-6** 2nd Commandment
 - Extension of the 1st. (Really only 9 commandments?)
 - Does this mean no pictures of Jesus or figurines of dolphins? Depends. Do you bow down and worship them?
 - Idolatry is a form of hatred toward the Lord. What is idolatry?
 - Immediate context. Worshipping a physical representation of a spiritual entity. **Isaiah 44:9-28**
 - **The action of idolatry - Looking to anything other than God to meet a spiritual need is idolatry. That thing is your idol.** Sex, drugs, shopping, games, sports, cars, computers, yard, even church/ministry.
 - **The consequence of idolatry - cheating on Jesus.** Whore, adulterer, OT & NT.
 - Keeping of the commandments should be out of love first, fear second.
 - In some ways there should be a fear factor of the Lord. In some ways He should scare the crap out of us. More accurately, scare the Hell out of us.
 - At the same time, He is a God of mercy, a God who expresses love toward us and wants us to express love in return. After all, He made the first move.
- **20:7** 3rd Commandment. Nothing to do with bad language, but abusing the name, the authority of the Lord. Other passages tell us to watch our mouths. From televangelists to flakey guys who want a woman to marry.
- **20:8-11** 4th Commandment. The point is to
 - Remember the events of creation
 - **Rest from what you are doing in what God has done.**
 - **Another layer might be the fact that we are made in God's image, to create, to work, to make, and we need a break too!**
 - Jesus and the Pharisees
- **20:12** 5th Commandment. Written to people of all ages. Remember, written for generational farms/trades. Contention meant having to leave and miss out on God.
- **20:13** 6th Commandment
 - **The intentional, planned, motivated by malice, taking of another life.**
 - Not simply "kill" because that would negate capitol punishment which God ordained just after the flood and later in the law.
 - Manslaughter is different altogether.
 - **Jesus on murder. Matthew 5:21-26.**
- **20:14** 7th Commandment
 - **Having sex with anyone or anything to whom you are not married.**
 - God invented sex. He made it to be fun, or else people wouldn't do it.
 - **God ordained sex is between two people of the opposite sex who are married to each other. Anything outside of that is sin, outside His will, outside of His best for us.**
 - **Jesus on adultery. Matthew 5:27-30.**

- Do we break these in our actions only? No, we can break these in our hearts and minds. It's all the same. Sin nature. Need an exchange.
- **20:15** 8th Commandment
 - Taking something from someone else that you know doesn't belong to you because of your greed.
 - Stories about my Huffy and rice crispy treat.
- **20:16** 9th Commandment
 - Speaking untruths about someone else. Lying. Speaking lies, withholding the truth.
 - Blaming someone else for something you did.
 - Gossip.
- **20:17** 10th Commandment
 - I want that. I don't have that. I don't have enough. Why not me?
 - Leads to lying, stealing, adultery, murder, not honoring parents, working to get more, abusing God's name and authority, worshipping the thing you are coveting, and having a false god in place of the One true God.

The Monkeys

- Who has never broken any of these? Remember, in the heart counts. **James 2:10-11**. There are no small sins in God's eyes.
- Which of the monkeys needs to be cut in order for you to fall? Any one of them.
- It isn't that we are all born and get a shot at being perfect.
- It isn't that we have to do better than most. As long as we aren't really bad, as long as I give it a good effort, I'll be OK. Wrong.
- We aren't compared to the law, we aren't compared to each other, we are compared to Jesus. [The Fair Gospel](#).

The response of the people

- **20:18-26**
 - Fear, a desire for a mediator.
 - An alter for sacrifice. Only bring what you have, as you are, not your works.
- How do you respond?
 - "I am the LORD your God, who created the heavens and the earth, who created you because it made Me happy to do so, because I want to have a relationship with you."
 - How is this accomplished? Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection.
 - When the time comes, you will be compared to Jesus. How will you measure up?
 - You need a mediator to give you a new nature.
 - The only sacrifice you can bring is yourself, as you are, not your works or promises.