

A note from Kathy

This is a very familiar chapter. Most people have heard of the Ten Commandments, but God desires more than mere familiarity; he wants us to know and obey them. This week we will look at them in more detail to see the character of God behind them and the protection they offer us.

Observation

1. So far Israel has experienced God as being faithful to his promises, the one to cry out to when in distress, the deliverer in times of persecution, the provider in times of need, bringing victory in times of conflict, and now they will experience his holy standards for one and all.

Briefly fill in the chart below The New Testament verses will be added to the end of the study guide.

The Ten Commandments	Jesus said
Exodus 20:3	Matthew 4:10
Exodus 20:4	Luke 16:13
Exodus 20:7	1 Timothy 6:1
Exodus 20:8	Mark 2:27-28
Exodus 20:12	Matthew 19:19
Exodus 20:13	Matthew 5:22; Romans 13:9
Exodus 20:14	Matthew 5:28; Matthew 19:18
Exodus 20:15	Matthew 5:40; Romans 13:9
Exodus 20:16	Matthew 12:36; Romans 13:9
Exodus 20:17	Luke 12:15; Romans 7:7

2. God had given his people these commands so they could live a life that would reflect his glory. Do you recall what God's purpose was and is "that all men would _____." Ex. 6:7; Ex. 7:5,17; Ex. 8:22; 10:2; 14:4,18; 16:12
3. The children of Israel had experienced God's deliverance from the hands of the Egyptians. He is the one true God, unlike all the multiple false gods of Egypt. What does this require? Exodus 20:2
4. Exodus 20:5 clearly states that God is a jealous God. Spend some time pondering this; how would you explain this to someone if questioned about it. Could you compare it to a husband and wife relationship?

5. The law of sowing and reaping can be easily seen in Exodus 20:5-6. Put it into your own words. What do these verses teach us of the importance of our example and choices?
6. What does it mean to take the name of the LORD your God in vain?
7. How serious was God concerning the Sabbath? The Sabbath was to be set apart as a day of rest. What does it mean to “keep it holy”?
8. Exodus 20:12 commands us to honor our parents. What does the word “honor” mean? How do you interpret the promise given to those who honor their parents? Does this commandment end when we leave our parents’ home?
9. Exodus 20:13 is pretty straightforward. “You shall not murder.” Does this only relate to the absolute taking of one’s life, or could it have a far greater meaning? Look up Matthew 5:21-24.
10. Today we hear a lot about consenting adults. Does this really even matter when the Ten Commandments are taken seriously?
11. Exodus 20:15 tells us not to steal. Is it only talking about taking someone’s personal property?
12. In a court of law we are sworn to “tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth”. Why would we need to raise one hand and place the other on the Bible and confirm that what we are saying is the truth? Why would we need to swear it is the whole truth; after all what is a half truth really? And that it is nothing extra to make the story sound interesting?
13. The commandments end with the command not to covet anything that is someone else’s. Define covet? This is such a quiet sin, a sin that at times only we ourselves might know we are committing. Why does God take it so seriously? What would you say is the source of all covetousness? What is the cure for it?

14. Exodus 20:19-21 reveals that because of their fear, they stayed at a distance. This is a very clear difference between Law and Grace. Read Hebrews 10:19-23; by God's grace, what are we compelled to do?
15. Exodus 20:22-26 deals with idols and altars. We may not fully understand God's reasons. Of course we can speculate and reason, but it should be enough that we were given instructions concerning this. It is the will and the good pleasure of God.

Application

1. In order for us to reflect God before others, we must come to him with a humble heart. According to verse 2, what is God's rightful place? # _____
2. Today there are many things that try to gain our allegiance: fame, fortune, fun, favor just to name a few. How can you tell if something is becoming an idol?
3. God does not punish children for their parents' sins, but all too often we plant seeds in our children's heart by our example. God must deal with their sin. There is an old saying, "What the parents do in moderation the children do in excess." Why do you suppose this is?
4. In Exodus 20:6, we see God lavishing love on many for the obedience of those who love him and keep his commandments. Much like a farmer planting seeds, it is God who gives the sun and the rain and produces the crop. The crop is always multiplied. What seeds are you planting in your neighborhood, schools, and family that will reap a harvest of love for God?
5. Is God's name used in vain today? In what way? How sensitive are you to this breaking of God's command? Does the entertainment industry seem to care about this command? Are you supporting an industry that clearly disregards God's commandments?
6. In what way do you make a conscious effort to keep the Sabbath holy?
7. What if our parents are not honorable people; do we still need to show them honor? What would that kind of honor look like?

8. Every day feelings are hurt, friendships are broken, and reputations are destroyed by angry or careless remarks. Then, without a thought to the damage that has been caused, we attempt to worship the Lord. In Matthew 5:21-24, Jesus points out that there is more to the command, "Thou shall not kill." How does this apply to our lives and our worship? What does the Lord expect of us when someone has a grievance against us?
9. Look up 1 Corinthians 6:18; explain in your own words why sexual sins are harmful to our own body.
10. In what way is coveting not merely against the person but a sin against God? What are we saying concerning his care and provision?
11. After spending this time in Exodus 20, what have you seen concerning the character of God?
12. Were there any warnings you perceived today that you need to heed? Take a few minutes to talk to the Lord about this.
13. Are you seeing signs of growth in your spiritual life? Looking back on this time last year, do you see a maturity of your faith, a desire to live more pleasing to the Lord, followed by actions that prove it?

New Testament verses for chart

Matthew 4:10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' "

Luke 16:13 "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and

despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

1 Timothy 6:1 All who are under the yoke of slavery should consider their masters worthy of full respect, so that God's name and our teaching may not be slandered.

Mark 2:27-28 Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Matthew 19:19 ...honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 5:22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca, ' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Romans 13:9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 5:28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 19:18 "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, " 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony,

Matthew 5:40 And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.

Romans 13:9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 12:36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken

Romans 13:9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Luke 12:15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Romans 7:7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."