



MONDAY 22 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 5:16

Plug In...

This commandment has a purpose clause, “So it may go well for you in the Land”. Chapter [4:40](#) impressed upon adults to pass the covenant on to their children. The Land is the place of realising the joys of the covenant. So, to go well in the Land is to have arrived, have God in their midst, to enjoy life under God’s blessing. The Fifth Commandment continues to hold out the covenant relationship. Children are addressed: listen to your parents who pass on the covenant and honour them by honouring it.

Chew It Over...

[Ephesians 6:1-2](#) refers to this principle: “Obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” Here, Paul addresses the Christian household. Parents should not exasperate their children. The opposite is to train them in the gospel-covenant of the Lord. Children are wise to obey this for it is the only way to life.

Honouring parents is not presented here as an abstract virtue that the Christian faith agrees with (i.e. honour vs. shame). Honour is deeply rooted in passing on the gospel and keeping the gospel truth embedded within the family for the sake of the next generation and so on down the line.

Prayer Suggestion

Pray that the gospel stays vibrant within the families of The Lakes.



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TUESDAY 23 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 5:17-19

Plug In...

The first four commandments speak of the direct relationship between a person and God. The remaining six focus on the relationship between a person and other persons.

“Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal” are all anti-social, anti-community, anti-loving your neighbour as yourself.

Chew It Over...

Would you consider murder the most anti-social behaviour in a community? Maybe that's why it leads the list. While murder is anti-social, and many of us haven't murdered, how would you describe the 'ideal' *social* behaviour? Reflect on what Jesus said approaches the ideal ([Matthew 5:21-22](#)).

We've noted that the New Testament doesn't say look at the Ten Commandments and make sure you obey the sixth, 'Do not murder'. The Ten Commandments existed for Israel to expose that their hearts do not love God foremost (the First Commandment). This is proved in the story of Israel. Just watch it and see the community could not eradicate murder from their midst (e.g. King David murders Uriah – [2 Samuel 11](#)).

Paul, after making the case that we are all trapped in sin ([Romans 3:9-18](#)), failing the covenant terms (especially should you be a Jew directly under it – [Romans 3:19](#)), explains that Jesus forgives us this sin and enters us by God's Holy Spirit ([Romans 8:1-11](#)). This is how murder is eradicated from the community. Paul doesn't try to eradicate it by telling Christians put yourself under the Ten Commandments. Instead, Paul recognises the love of Christ in us will achieve so much more than just keeping a total of ten commandments. Love will do more than refrain from murder (see [Romans](#)

[13:8-10](#)). Love from the Holy Spirit will achieve what Jesus was talking about: change our anger responses, how we talk to and about others, it will drive us to forgive those that have wronged us ([Matthew 5:21-26](#)).

Prayer Suggestion

Asked the Lord Jesus for even more power to love and protect your neighbour (even for our neighbours who are enemies – [Matthew 5:43-45](#)).



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WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 5:20-21

Plug In...

The final commandment is different to the others in that it would be hard to produce concrete evidence for breaking it. All the others can be factually observed in a court of law, hence the importance of true witnesses (v.20). Yet, none of the commandments get broken unless one has a selfish, covetous personal agenda. Coveting (or greed) lies deep in the recesses of the heart and is the motivation behind breaking any of the preceding commandments. It closes off the list of commandments in a way that mirrors the first: “You shall not have any other gods before me” (v.7).

Chew It Over...

Paul concedes how this blackness of human hearts led him, and leads us, to breaking all the commandments ([Romans 7:7-12](#)).

We are what we worship. An idol is what we put first in place of God. It may be an idol made of stone and wood, or it may be anything else within creation (money, status, etc). If something comes in place of God, then we desire something else and suddenly this final commandment exposes us before God. It shows first, we’ve broken the First Commandment. Secondly, it reveals we’ve actually asserted ourselves as the centre of our worship – we are the idol!

Let’s seriously interrogate our desires. Is there anything in your life you would have to say would plunge you into utter despair if you could not have? This could be what occupies prime place.

Prayer Suggestion

Ask the Lord Jesus to help us put to death these alternate gods ([Colossians 3:5-6](#)).



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THURSDAY 25 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 5:22-28

Plug In...

The Ten Commandments were written on two stone tablets. The entire Ten Commandments were duplicated on a second tablet. Normally, each party to an agreement, the covenant, was given a copy of the terms. A little later the blessings and curses as a result of fulfilling or un-fulfilling the agreement are written for the Israelites to remember ([Deuteronomy 27-28](#)).

Notice the people's initial response to entering the agreement (vv.23-27). The people sense their need for someone to act on their behalf. Ironically, as Moses recalls this request, he's already shown them he ultimately cannot be that mediator ([Deuteronomy 3:23-26](#) & [4:21-24](#)).

Chew It Over...

Maybe we are so familiar with the Ten Commandments that we don't take stock of what it means to enter into an agreement with the God of the universe. Imagine being under such an agreement.

We should feel the anxiety and be reminded of our mortality (v.26). Then feel the relief of the gospel.

While not directly under the agreement God made specifically with Israel, the entire world is accountable to God. [[Romans 1-3](#) teaches the Jew under the Mosaic Law covenant proves that all humanity is categorically stuck in sin and is found wanting before God – esp. [Romans 3:9-20](#)].

Thank God for Jesus ([Romans 3:21-26](#); [Galatians 3:13](#)).

Prayer Suggestion

Yes, thank God for Jesus our substitute. May our mortality enlarge our vision of you, God. May our inadequacy cast us on *your* provision, Jesus.



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FRIDAY 26 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 5:29

Plug In...

In the face of God's powerful, awesome, holy, and threatening presence the people remarkably respond well. They've recognised their mortality before God and requested a mediator. They want to obey God, they want to live, but they request a mediator. It seems they are aware that God can overhear their request to Moses, so in effect were asking God.

To all this, God sees that their hearts are in the right place, and God reveals His *desire* that they maintain this heart attitude every day for their sake and the sake of their children (v.29). Yet, Deuteronomy makes clear a sustained right-hearted response will not happen if the people are left to themselves to produce it. [Note again [Deuteronomy 4:25-31](#); [30:1-10](#).]

Chew It Over...

People who see a different kind of God in the Old Testament to the God in the New Testament, i.e. a mean God versus a loving -God, haven't read the Old Testament closely enough. For example here, verse 29. For sure, God is holy, is just and so will punish sin, but *desires* people to survive, live, and have life to the fullest – forever.

Reflect on [1 Timothy 2:3-6](#).

"God our Saviour, who wants everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and man, a man, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself – a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time."

Prayer Suggestion

Ask the Lord to appoint people for you, whom you bring to their hearts this desire of God. To show them clearly, God is not mean, but loving and compassionate, forgiving sins completely, bringing people close to Him for life to the full forever.



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WEEKEND 27-28 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 5:30-33

Plug In...

After the people requested that Moses hear the rest of God's revelation on their behalf, God gave Moses further material that was to be delivered before the people prior to entering the Land (v.31). The first generation were due to hear this at Kadesh Barnea prior to going over, but never got to that stage. Now, Moses in Deuteronomy 1-5 has just recapped their entire history and revelation before setting before them this land-specific revelation from God.

The history is the past, but it forms a lesson for the present. Moses' immediate audience have the choice to learn from the past and choose life (vv.32-33).

Chew It Over...

Today contains the same choice. Matthew 16:24: *Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me'.*

How would you say your everyday choices trace back to you choosing life in Jesus? [Remember, denying yourself as god is not just a behaviour, but a heart issue ([Deuteronomy 5:29](#)).]

Prayer Suggestion

Incline our hearts towards you God. Make us disciples of Jesus, for we cannot deny ourselves and take up our cross by our own will. Thank you for the promise that you are doing this and will keep on doing this. We rely on you for everything.