

## The Ten Commandments

By Jessica FitzPatrick

You have heard messages preached on them; you have probably memorized or read the 10 Commandments over and over. But do you understand exactly what they say? I mean, ok I've disobeyed my parents but I've never killed anyone. Right? Or have I? Hmm...

Let's discuss the first two to see if we have broken them.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; (Exodus 20:3-7)

Have you let other things attack the time you would have otherwise given to your devotions or praying? Maybe your favorite movie is on television this Wednesday night, but on the same night a missionary speaker is going to preach on the "Power of God". Perhaps your basketball tournament is scheduled of Sunday 10:30am sharp! What do you do? Computer, games, jobs and money are some common things that we replace God with.

What happens when you put things in God place? LOTS! God does not and will not settle for 2nd place. He will be 1st in your life or not at all. Maybe you will lose the big game or you might have a power failure

during the movie or He might wait until you realize what you are doing. However there are blessings. You may be a witness to other teens by going to that missionary meeting. As for the basketball game, you might be cut from the team and may not be able see the blessings now, but be patient you will see in time.

Number three says . . .

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain;  
for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Exodus 20:7

Have you ever taken His name in vain? Just so you know, in vain means to use the name in an irreverent way. I have notice a lot of people take His name in vain and (I being one of them) did not know it. Please note the following words I write with respect and for instruction only. There are the actual names of God, plus hidden ones like Golly, Gosh, O-My-Goodness, and Gee. Ever said those ones? Most likely you have. Now look at the second part of this verse. He will not hold you guiltless; He will hold you guilty!

What happens when you ill use His name? You became guilty; the guilty must be punished. However, there are blessings. Besides not being punished, you will have more respect for God and all that belong to Him.

Now, the fourth commandment.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God:

In it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter,  
thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle,

nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that  
in them is, and rested the seventh day:

Wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

How do you keep the Sabbath day? Plus keep it Holy? God made the seventh day to rest in; He wants us to rest from our work and think on Him as we realize he rested on the first Sabbath day. How about keeping it holy? Well, what does holy mean? Holy: pure, righteous, blessed, hallowed, divine, sanctified, consecrated, sacred, and separate. I would only use an object for the purpose that it was consecrated. Wouldn't you? You don't use a pen to BBQ meat, right? No, of course not, you use a pen to write with and you would use a meat fork (consecrated object) for your meat. The principle is the same for the Sabbath day. God requires the 7th day to be a hallowed, consecrated day of rest and worship. Do you use Sunday as a "catch up" day for shopping, laundry, or school? Was it made for you to "catch up" on? The only thing God wants us to catch up on is worshipping Him. How can you properly worship Jesus if you're doing something else? Keep Sunday Holy!

Now what happens if you defile Sunday? Things will go wrong. Precious things have gone missing, time will flee, your school work might be extra hard, or nothing (that you notice) will happen right away. It has happened to me and my family, when we needed one such "reminders" to keep Sunday holy all day (even after Church). My mom lost her wedding rings. They were very important to her. We looked and looked for them, and we prayed and prayed. Nothing. The later the next day, Monday, we found them in a very unusual spot, in one of the things that was bought that day before. God wanted us to remember Him, so He allowed us to

lose soothing of great value therefore we would pray and think on Him. It is VERY important to keep the Sabbath day and to keep it holy.

Alright! This is your parent's favorite one I'm sure! It consequently is one of the harder ones to follow all the time

Honour thy father and thy mother:  
That thy days may be long upon the land  
which the LORD thy God giveth thee.  
Exodus 20:12

Honor: Respect, Revere, obey, comply with, and follow. So to honor your parents is giving them respect and obeying them. This is doing what they say without grumbling or complaining (unless what they goes against what the Bible says Acts 5:29) every time they ask you to do it.

Depending on how willing you are will depend on how hard it will be to obey. If you don't, life will be miserable for you, to put it bluntly! If you obey, the bible says you will live longer. You will not die from punishments and your life will be more fun. When your parents trust you to obey, believe it or not, you will receive more privileges from your parents and blessings or good things from God. If I were you, I would choose to honor my parents!

Let us discuss number 6!

Thou shalt not kill.  
Exodus 20:13

Ever killed anyone? "No way!" is what you probably said, but have you ever been angry with some one before? I thought we were talking about murder not anger? Do they have anything in common? Jesus said they

did. Matthew 5:21-26 says that they even have the punishments: name calling in anger, danger of the council (authorities); saying “you fool”, danger of Hell fire! Ugg! The verse continues to say to agree with your enemy quickly before you both get punished or else your punishment will have no mercy. Don’t kill; don’t be angry with wrath and sin.

I think you know the hardships that will be but the blessings will be just as big. Apart from no black-eyes, broken bones, bruised fists, or lock jaws; you will live in His peace and will have a better relationship with people and with God.

Number # 7 ...

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Exodus 20:14

Again in Matthew 5: 27-30 it talks about this commandment. Jesus goes much farther with this commandment. He states that if you think on having something God does intend for you to have, you have already committed adultery in your heart.

God has to punish you for lusting after something or someone. Remember He is a creative God even in punishments so don’t be surprised on what He chooses for punishing. Blessings for not lusting are, I can only imagine, great. One for sure is being able to stay pure unto God in thought and in action for perhaps marriage. Stay pure!

Let’s look into commandment #8

Thou shalt not steal.

Exodus 20:15

Ever notice that the verses say “you will not \_\_\_\_\_” (paraphrase)? You definitely know what God is trying to get through to you by now, right? Anyway, you probably know stealing is taking something that is not yours without it's' owners permission. Ever stole? Anything at all? Big or little? Have you stole a candy bar, a toy, someone's reputation (by gossip mostly), or time with God? Here we go back to the first couple commandments. Is it not neat how the commandments all weave together?

All the things in the list involve stealing in one form or another. The first one, about the candy bar, is stealing from authority; you can get into big trouble with the law for that you know. Second one is from someone close like a friend or sibling(s); you will get in trouble with the toy's owner and their parents and your parents. Stealing someone's reputation only proves that you have little regard for Gods reputation, and by the way He will deal with you. Breaking the 2nd commandment is one we already looked at. Now to the blessings, you will more respect for other's and your things. God blesses those who do His word.

Number # 9

Thou shalt not bear false witness  
against thy neighbour.  
Exodus 20:16

Bearing a false witness is the same as lying; thy neighbor as all the people around you. Therefore the verse says not to lie at all!! You shall not lie to prevent punishment' to help someone in trouble to get someone to a surprise party; you shall not lie. There are ways of helping people or surprising truthfully. Example ----- the Ten boom family.

“While some Dutch people secretly fought against the Nazis, the Ten Boom secretly protected the Jews from them. They helped Jews find hiding places in the country. But they also hid Jews in their own home. Their first hiding place was under their floor. If the Nazis came, Corrie and Betsie could move the table from on top of the rug, lift up the rug, raise a trap door in the floor, let their Jewish guests crawl through, and then put the floor, the rug and the table back, as if nothing unusual had happened. But Corrie and Betsie disagreed about what to do next, if a Nazi soldier then rushed into the home demanding, “Where are the Jews?”

“Then, Betsie, you must say, “Jews? What Jews? There are no Jews here,” instructed Corrie.

“But Corrie, that would not be honest,” protested Betsie.

“I think the Lord would understand,” answered Corrie impatiently. “Remember that he commends Rahab in Hebrews 11 for misleading the soldiers looking for the Israelite spies in Jericho.”

“Yes, because Rahab did not have the revelation of God's will as we have. And Rahab wasn't one of God's people,” said Betsie sweetly.

“Oh Betsie! Be practical,” blurted Corrie.

But Betsie remained unconvinced. Then one day, while Corrie was away, Betsie got a sudden warning that Nazis were about to raid their house. Quickly, she moved the table aside, pulled back the rug that was under the table, lifted up the trap door that was under the rug, and helped the frightened Jews climb under the floor. Then she closed the trap door, replaced the rug over the trap door, replaced the table over the rug, straightened the tablecloth and sat down in her rocking chair to

continue knitting. Seconds later, it seemed, angry Nazi police were pounding on the door. When they came into the room where Betsie was, they loudly asked her, "Where are the Jews? We know you've hidden them. Tell us where they are." Betsie stopped knitting for a moment, gave the Nazis her sweetest smile and answered their question honestly, just as she had warned Corrie she would do. "Why, of course," Betsie said, "They're under the table." Eagerly several policemen bent down to look. One pulled aside the tiny lace tablecloth, then quickly put it back. The police stood up again, shuffling their feet in embarrassment. The leader of the police snapped, "It's not a good idea to joke with the Nazis." Then they left.<sup>1</sup> "

Did you know that in Bible times, if you were found a lying witness against someone, you received the same punishment that they (the person you lied about) received! I'm glad I'm not in Bible times; I'd most likely be dead now! That is a blessing in its self. Another would be an honest reputation.

Last one, number # 10

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house,  
thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife,  
nor his manservant, nor his maidservant,  
nor his ox, nor his ass,  
nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Exodus 20:17

Ever wanted some thing that was not yours? I'm sure I have. Sometimes it is really hard not to covet especially if you have been saving

up for it or wishing it for as a present. Coveting will only produce more sin, like anger, bitterness, hate and lust. Most of those sins we have already discussed in past lessons. Covetous only produces pain.

The opposite of covet is contentment. Philippians say to be content in every thing because the most important this in the world we have, or should I say has us, the Lord Jesus. There are so blessings you will receive, it just so amazing: There are harsh punishments you receive as well for being covetous. I don't know every way that He corrects us, but I do know He corrects us because He loves us. Proverbs 3:5. Be content in Him.

This is just a quick over view of each of the 10 commandments. Feel free to do a more thorough study to understand them better.

Only be thou strong and very courageous,  
that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law,  
which Moses my servant commanded thee:  
turn not from it to the right hand or to the left,  
that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.  
This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth;  
but thou shalt meditate therein day and night,  
that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:  
for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have  
good success.  
Joshua 1:7-8

Challenge: Choose one of the following commandments and try to “keep” it for 1 whole month then write to me and tell me how it went. Imagine “keeping” all 10 all the time! Wow!!

- 1) Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain;
- 2) Honour thy father and thy mother:
- 3) Thou shalt not bear false witness

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.biographiks.com/undemike/>