

"THOU SHALT BE FREE"

The Sinai Code, Part 5

July 4th, 2010

God says everybody you come into contact with is valuable, treat them right

God says honor Me (the first section of the Ten Commandments); then I want you to honor everyone else (the last section of the Ten Commandments)

The Ten Commandments elevated everybody's status in that community because everyone is made in the image of God

This new concept of a nation ruled by law and everyone was equal and accountable under the law went away until 1776

Temptation – If I'm the one making the laws, then I feel empowered to disobey my laws

We must understand the law was established by God. He is the divine lawmaker and you are a law-keeper underneath God's divine law; there's a new sense of accountability

People who have no sense of divine law often oppress others for the sake of their own power and benefit because they feel no accountability to a divine lawmaker

The value of the Ten Commandments isn't so much the specific commands, but the recognition of a divinely given law & the recognition of divine lawgiver to whom we're all accountable

If we ever lose the sense that there is a divine sense of right and wrong that we hold ourselves and other nations accountable to, we're in trouble

Exodus 20:12 (NIV) "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."

God says remember you were once a people without a land, and I put you in the land, and if you don't honor your father and mother, I will take you out of that land

As the family goes, so goes the nation

The first few commandments God says honor Me, the rest say honor others

Exodus 20:13-16 (NIV)

¹³ "You shall not murder." – honor their bodies

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery." – honor their marriages

¹⁵ "You shall not steal." – honor their possessions

¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor." – honor their reputation

God is concerned not only with how you treat other people, but how they treat you

Exodus 20:17 (NIV) "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

"covet" means to lust after – to want something that somebody else has that it hurts the relationship

Jesus said you're not just accountable to God for how you behave, you're accountable to God for what you think

Matthew 5:27-28 (NIV) "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Coveting leads to all kinds of problems, so God says guard your heart & mind

God gave us the commands, not to make us good, but because He loves us so much He just wants to keep us free

Exodus 19:25 (NIV) "So Moses went down to the people and told them."

Exodus 20:18-19 (NIV) "When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, 'Speak to us yourself & we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.'"

The people got a glimpse of the power & glory of God & quickly realized they weren't worthy

Exodus 20:29 (NIV) "Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.'"

God wants His greatness to be all the motivation you need to obey Him

God doesn't want you to learn the hard way, by experience, but by simply trusting Him

When we obey God when it's easy, hard, convenient, and inconvenient, trusting that at the end of obedience, we'll breath a sigh of relief & say, "I'm glad I trusted Him because now I'm free"

My Next Step Today Is:

- I acknowledge that I am accountable to God for my life & will one day give an account to Him
- I will not only honor God but also others realizing each person has intrinsic value being made in the image of God
- I will memorize Exodus 20:9
- I plan to attend the "Minute to Win It" Fellowship Night Sat, July 17th
- I am attending ___ The Study of the Book of James beginning Wed, July 7th; ___ Irresistible Evangelism beginning Wed, July 7th