

**Men's Sunday Night**  
**A Study in the Book of Exodus**  
**Lesson 10 – Exodus 19-20:21**  
**Journey to Freedom**  
**Laws for a Priestly People**

No topic has been more misunderstood among Christians than the Law of Moses and its application to the New Testament believer today. Beginning with Exodus 19 and continuing to the cross of Christ, the people were under the Mosaic system. God did not give the Law to save anybody, because it is impossible to be saved by the keeping of the Law. He gave the Law to Israel for the following reasons: 1. To reveal His glory and holiness. 2. To reveal man's sinfulness. 3. To mark Israel as His chosen people, and to separate them from the other nations. 4. To give Israel a standard for godly living so that they might inherit the land and enjoy its blessings. 5. To prepare Israel for the coming of Christ.

The Law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. There is obviously a contrast between the legalistic system of Moses for Israel and the gracious position the Christian has in the body of Christ. The New Testament makes it very clear that the Christian is not under the Law, but lives in the gift of His grace. The Law no longer separates Jew and Gentile, for in Christ we are one in the church.

Being free from the Law does not mean being free to sin. Our liberty in Christ is not license to sin. We have been called to liberty, and we must use that liberty for the good of others and the glory of God.

## **Chapter 20**

All of the Old Testament Law is but an amplification and application of the Ten Commandments. The "New Commandment" of love is the basic motivation for the Christian today. This love is shed abroad from our hearts by the Spirit, so that we love God and others, and therefore should need no external law to control our lives. The old nature knows no law, and the new nature needs no law. 1. *Have no other gods before Me* 2. *Make no idols or images* 3. *Do not take His name in vain* 4. *Remember the Sabbath Day* 5. *Honor father and mother* 6. *Do not murder* 7. *Do not commit adultery* 8. *Do not steal* 9. *Do not bear false witness* 10. *Do not covet.* The Sabbath, the sacrifices, the dietary laws, the priesthood, and the tabernacle services were all done away in Christ.

**Read Exodus Chapter 19 and Answer the Following Questions:**

1. Where does Israel arrive now? How long has it been since they left Egypt?
  
2. In verses 4-6 we see several phrases describing how much God loves the Children of Israel. Describe what each of the following phrases mean to you:
  - a. *“I bore you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself”*
  
  - b. *“You shall be a special treasure to Me above all people”*
  
  - c. *“You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation”*
  
3. What is the covenant that God wanted them to keep? (See vs. 5)
  
4. How did the people respond to God’s instructions? What if anything is important that they responded together?
  
5. What things does God insist the people do before He comes to talk to Moses on the top of the mountain? Why does God insist on these things? (See vs. 10-15)
  
6. How do the people react to the coming of God to this mountain? (See vs. 16-20)

7. In verses 21-25 what does God tell Moses to do again? Why does God want Moses to repeat this one more time? How does Moses respond to God's request?

**Read Exodus Chapter 20 and Answer the Following Questions:**

8. What gracious act is the basis of the Lord's right to be Israel's King? (See vs. 2)

9. What does the commandment "*You shall have no other gods before Me*" mean to you personally?

10. Paul refers to the commandment to honor one's parents (20:12) as the first one with a promise. Why do you think this is? (See Eph. 6:2). How do we honor our parents?

11. How does the ordinance of the Sabbath day promote physical and mental well-being? How can we practically honor the Sabbath day in our current world?

12. What does the commandment against murder, adultery, theft, false testimony, and covetousness tell us about God's views on personal integrity and respect for others?

13. What lessons can we learn from the Israel's fear of God speaking directly to them? (See vs. 18-21) How does God speak to His people today?

## **Keep It Holy** **Exodus 20:8-10**

What was God's will for the Sabbath day as the term literally means "a day of rest"? The fourth commandment is straightforward "*keep it holy.*" But, what does it mean to keep the Sabbath holy?

The forward to the ten commandments provides a clue. All ten rest on the close relationship that God has to His people. a. He is the Sovereign One. b. He is their Almighty God. c. He is their Deliverer. d. He is their Savior. e. They are his children.

If God's people keep in mind their relationship to the Lord and value it in their hearts, they will exhibit the kind of behaviors outlined in the Ten Commandments. For example, if they would set aside a day a week in order to consciously emulate what the Lord did on the seventh day of creation.

God rested or ceased from His creation labors on the seventh day. He did not stop sustaining, maintaining, and redeeming the world, but He did from creating, shaping, and forming it. And that is what He asks His people to do. To set a day apart for Him in order to do whatever He loves and desires, everything except the routine labors that are normally carried out six days of the week.

Christians today have a degree of latitude in how they fulfill God's intentions for the Sabbath. But the spirit of "keeping the Sabbath holy" still means to honor God, to focus on the needs of others rather than ourselves, and to pursue fellowship, unity, and concern for other believers.