

Jesus Deepens Our Understanding of the 10 Commandments

I thought it so good that as we end this quarter of Kingdom Kidz it was at Christmas time, the time we celebrate the birth of God's Son Jesus. As most of you know we have been studying the 10 commandments and several of the students have them memorized and even more have the basic teaching planted into their hearts.

A study of the 10 commandments is really important for us and our children especially in the days we live in. Days that are filled with hate expressed in harsh words and violent actions.

I think we all can agree that this nation is becoming angrier and angrier. But what you might not know is this is one of the reasons God gave Moses and all the people born after Moses, the 10 commandments. To help us not be angry people but joy-filled people.

Think about the 10 Commandments with me for a moment.

- 1. Put God first**
- 2. Worship only God**
- 3. Use God's name with respect**
- 4. Remember God's Sabbath**

These first four commandments speak of how we are to relate to our Creator and God. When we are obedient in our relationship with God it puts everything else into perspective. Our lives, this world, our family, people around us and the future all comes into true focus, true focus according to the our Creator and God of the universe. This is where joy is found. When we are in tune with our Creator.

The next six commandments have to do with how we are to treat those around us.

- 5. Respect you parents**
- 6. Don't hurt others**
- 7. Be faithful in marriage**
- 8. Don't steal**
- 9. Don't lie**
- 10. Don't be envious of others.**

How we treat others begins in the home doesn't it? How we learn to interact, honor and be obedient to our parents teaches us how to interact, honor and serve others.

We learn it is not right to hurt others physically or with our words. We learn about the sanctity of marriage. How stealing others stuff is wrong or even being driven by jealousy of what someone else has that we do not. We learn the importance of always telling the truth even when it hurts, even when it means we will have to suffer a bit.

I believe that we, even as adults, if we had the 10 Commandments ingrained deeper into our hearts this world would be a kinder, gentler and better place to live. I know God would find this very pleasing.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus it is interesting what He did with the 10 commandments.

Jesus said in **Matthew 5:17**, **“Do not think I came to abolish the Law...but to fulfill (the Law).”**

While there is a lot of different meanings here I think we can look at these next two scriptures to get one of the meanings.

Matthew 5:21-22, **“You have heard that the ancients were told, “You shall not commit murder...but I say to you that everyone who is angry with their brother shall be guilty...”**

Matthew 5:27-28, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery in his heart.’”

As you can tell from these passages Jesus takes the commandments and deepens them by saying it is not enough for us to actually not kill anyone. He says it is not even right for us to be angry and stay angry at anyone.

Same with adultery. The physical act is bad but so is the thought life that one can have.

It is God’s desire that through His Son that we will be set free not only from the physical acts of sin but also the sins that can occur in our thought life.

Again, we celebrate the coming of Jesus for the salvation He offers. It is His and God’s desire for each person to come into a saving relationship with them. A saving relationship that will last for eternity in heaven.

And if that wasn’t good enough Jesus also came that we might be saved from ourselves and the pressures of the world around us. He came that we might be set free from the behaviors and thoughts that can drag us down into life that can get really icky and sticky, a life that is not the joyous one God created us to have. He came to set us free from all that.

So we celebrate Jesus. We celebrate with your kids and ours.

Zephaniah 3:17, “The Lord your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.”

Come now and let us enjoy the Lord as He sings to us through the children.