



GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion

60 – The Tables of the Law

Announcements:

2/27 @6:30 -

Men's Discipleship
- Question 8

3/1 @7:00 -

Prayer

3/2 @6:30 -

Grace Group

3/5 @8:30 -

Sunday School

3/7 @6:30 -

Women's
Bible Study

ICE BREAKER: (Theological positions aside!) Are you a “good person”? Why or Why not?

READ: Matthew 19:16-22

One of the things that I find most interesting about this passage is not *that* Jesus confronts this rich young man (though that is important and interesting) but *how* Jesus confronts him. For those paying attention, you may have noticed that he is pretty much using the 10 commandments. Well... Kinda. In particular he is using the latter of the Ten Commandments. Just to look at it in order, he questions him on murder (the 6th), adultery (7th), stealing (8th), false witness (9th), Honoring father and Mother (5th), and loving your neighbor as yourself (we will get to this in a bit!). In reality Jesus is questioning him on what some call the “second table of the Law”. Well ... Kinda! Today I would like to look at this passage explicitly diving into the nature of how and why Jesus questions this man in this way. In doing so the hope is we see more clearly his heart and have insights into seeing our own hearts more clearly.

Before looking at our passage for today, in order to properly understand this we need to go back (well, really ahead!) to a different passage featuring Jesus and the Law. We will cover this in a little while, but it is Matthew 22:34-40. Here Jesus is questioned: What is the greatest commandment? Most of us are very familiar with his response. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” These two commandments become the “tables” that we read the ten commandments with. So how do we love God? The answer is really commandments 1-4 (honoring his name, having no other gods, making no idols and observing the Sabbath). The second is how do we love others (see Jesus questions the rich young man). Properly understanding this helps us to see more clearly what Jesus means when he says: “On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets”!

DISCUSS: Do you find it helpful to read all the commands of God through this lens? In what ways (or why not)?

Now we can look at the questions of Jesus. He tells him, you must keep the commandments. Of course, the man replies, but which ones? In reality even this question shows where his heart is, because he should have known the truth. Which is that the correct answer is ALL OF THEM. But it is as if Jesus will humor him. Ok, let's try the second table. How are you doing there? Truly this is summoned up in his final question: have you loved your neighbor as yourself? The man proudly answers: great! I am perfect there. But it is here that I would like to pause. Because *we* have another question to ask: was he?

READ: Matthew 5:21-22

DISCUSS: So, Was he? What is the fundamental problem with his type of thinking?

But it is as if Jesus gave him a pass again. OK. But how about the first table? This is why I think using the tables helps us understand what is really going on here. While the surface level question is: “will you sell all your stuff” I believe the heart of the question (that I assume the young man realized as well) is do you Love God with all your heart soul mind and strength? Have your possessions become an Idol? Are they a God that you would hold before God or will you be willing to part with those for the sake of God. Jesus was not laying out a rule that we all should follow in selling all our stuff, but he was laying out a command that we should all follow in that we should Love God with all our Heart soul mind and strength! This is the rich young man's problem!

DISCUSS: Does understanding this story through the first table help you understand it better? In what ways can we apply this to our lives?