

BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY
Jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org
July 29, 2018

Leviticus 11:46-47

1. In Exodus we focused on Moses' life-changing encounter with God.
2. We could have dealt with the Ten Commandments instead.
3. As a prelude to today's message I want to point out a couple of important facts related to the Ten Commandments.
 - a. Before God wrote the Ten Commandments He spoke the Ten Commandments.
 - (1) Ex 20:1-2
Then God spoke all these words, saying, 2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."
 - (2) Ex 20:22-23
Then the Lord said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, '**You yourselves have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven.**'"
 - (3) Deut 4:9-14
"Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons. 10 "Remember the day you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, when the Lord said to me, '**Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.**' 11 "You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the very heart of the heavens: darkness, cloud and thick gloom. 12 "**Then the Lord spoke to you from the midst of the fire; you heard the sound of words, but you saw no form — only a voice. 13 "So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone. 14 "The Lord commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might perform them in the land where you are going over to possess it.**
 - b. The Ten Commandments were complete in that God intended them to guide the lives of His people. Deut 5:22
"These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly at the mountain from the midst of the fire, of the cloud and of the thick gloom, with a great voice, **and He added no more.** He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.
 - c. The people could not deal with such an intimate relationship with God. Deut 5:23-27
"And when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders. 24 "You said, 'Behold, the Lord our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire; we have seen today that God speaks with man, yet he lives. 25 'Now then why should

we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the Lord our God any longer, then we will die. 26 'For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? 27 'Go near and hear all that the Lord our God says; then speak to us all that the Lord our God speaks to you, and we will hear and do it.'

- d. The Law was then added because the people rejected grace. Deut 5:28-33
"The Lord heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the Lord said to me, 'I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They have done well in all that they have spoken. 29 **'Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!** 30 'Go, say to them, "Return to your tents." 31 **'But as for you, stand here by Me, that I may speak to you all the commandments and the statutes and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe them in the land which I give them to possess.'** 32 "So you shall observe to do just as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left. 33 "You shall walk in all the way which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you will possess.

NOTE: Because of the Jews rejection of God and His ten guiding principles, the Law, with all of its complexities became a reality.

4. Embodied in the Law is what I believe is the foundational principle that is at the heart of both the Law and Grace.
5. That principle is stated a number of times in Leviticus and restated in the New Testament. **"YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."**

I. Live a life that is characterized by separation. Lev 11:44-45

'For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth. 45 'For I am the Lord who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.'"

A. Here the focus was on the dietary laws related to the clean and the unclean.

B. In a broader sense we as Christians are to be in the world but not of the world.

2 Cor 6:14-18

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? 16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; and I will welcome you. 18 "and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says the Lord Almighty.

II. Live a life that is characterized by reverence. Lev 19:1-4

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2 "Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. 3 'Every one of you shall reverence his mother and his father, and you shall keep My sabbaths; I am the Lord your God. 4 'Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves molten gods; I am the Lord your God."

A. How we relate to others matters to God.

B. We are to reverence God and all that He has declared to be holy.

III. Live a life that is characterized by obedience. Lev 20:7-8

"You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the Lord your God. 8 'You shall keep My statutes and practice them; I am the Lord who sanctifies you."

A. Here the emphasis is a little different.

B. We are to be holy because God is the Lord our God, and He has sanctified us; set us apart for Himself.

C. Jesus asked an important question that needs to be answered by many who call themselves Christians. Luke 6:46-49

"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 "Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 "But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."

IV. Live a life that is distinctively different. Lev 20:22-26

'You are therefore to keep all My statutes and all My ordinances and do them, so that the land to which I am bringing you to live will not spew you out. 23 'Moreover, you shall not follow the customs of the nation which I will drive out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I have abhorred them. 24 'Hence I have said to you, "You are to possess their land, and I Myself will give it to you to possess it, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the Lord your God, who has separated you from the peoples. 25 'You are therefore to make a distinction between the clean animal and the unclean, and between the unclean bird and the clean; and you shall not make yourselves detestable by animal or by bird or by anything that creeps on the ground, which I have separated for you as unclean. 26 'Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.

A. God expects us to be distinctive; we are to stand out.

B. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus declared that we were to be both salt and light.

C. Paul put it this way in Phil 2:14-17.

Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

APPLICATION

1. In closing notice what Peter wrote in I Peter 1:13-21.

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 **but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."**

17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. 20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you 21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

2. Believers are referred to as saints for a reason, and, by the grace of God, we can live accordingly.