

1 **How would you respond to someone who said, “The Old Testament is just a bunch of rules, but Jesus did away with all that.”** Look at Matthew 5:17-20 for help answering that question.

🔊 *What comfort do you derive from Jesus' fulfillment of the Decalogue?*

🔊 *Though you can't be justified by the law, what purpose does it have in your life?*

🔊 *Where has a knowledge of God's law led you?*

2 **Read Matthew 22:36-40.** How can the 10 Commandments be summarized? What does that mean in your own words?

♥ *How did Jesus deepen the greatest commandment as he fulfilled it? How did Jesus fulfill the second great commandment?*

♥ *One of the early church fathers, Origen (A.D. 185-254), wrote, “Let your only debt that is unpaid be that of love. We must pay it daily and yet always owe it.” (see also Rom. 13:8) Loving the lovable is easy. But loving the irritable, cranky, annoying, frustrating, unreasonable, and cantankerous is hard. Who is God spurring you to love this week? How will you demonstrate your love?*

3 **Read the story of the rich young ruler and his encounter with Jesus in Matthew 19:16-30.** After reading the account, do you think that people today deceive themselves as to whether they are keeping God's commandments? In what ways do you think people are guilty of that? Why do you think that is?

📖 *How do you think this quote from C.H. Spurgeon helps us think about the importance of seeing ourselves as lawbreakers “As the sharp needle prepares the way for the thread, so the piercing law makes a way for grace.”[2]*

4 Why do you think the commandments are introduced with the words of Deuteronomy 5:6?[3]

⚙️ *How does it feel when people dump responsibilities on you outside of relationship?*

⚙️ *How can God's love, grace, and redemption make his commands not feel so burdensome (See Matthew 23:4, 1 John 5:2-3, Ps. 1:1-2; Rom. 7:22)?*

⚙️ *How do you experience God's commands?*

5 Which of the commandments in Deuteronomy 5 are the hardest for you to keep?

♥️ *Where can you find mercy for failure?*

♥️ *What should be your motivation and empowerment as you seek to please the Lord?*

- *Ask God to convince you of his authority (so that you will listen to his commands) and ask him to convince you of his love (so that you will submit with joy).*
- *Thank God for redeeming you from slavery and leading you through the wilderness of life, then commit to follow him in the strength that he provides.*
- *Ask God to work in you to both will and do his good pleasure.*
- *Pray that his commands could be seen as loving principles that lead to life instead of crushing burdens that lead to despair.*
- *Thank Jesus for keeping the whole law and imputing his righteousness on all who trust in him.*

[1] Daniel I. Block, *The NIV Application Commentary: Deuteronomy* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012), 156.

[2] Philip Graham Ryken, *Written in Stone: The Ten commandments and Today's Moral Crisis* (Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2010), 36.

[3] Community Bible Study, *Engaging God's Word: Deuteronomy* (Colorado Springs: Community Bible Study, 2013), 22.