

10-09-05

Series: Ten Commands

Ancient Stones - Timeless Truths

Today's Topic- 4th Commandment

Speaker: Vicar Matthew

>> GOOD MORNING.

GREAT TO SEE ALL OF YOU HERE.

THIS MORNING.

WE'RE TALKING EXTENSIVELY ABOUT THE

FOURTH COMMANDMENT.

AND YOU'RE GOING TO NEED YOUR BIBLES.

SO IF YOU HAVE A BIBLE THAT'S GREAT.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A BIBLE, GO AHEAD AND

RAISE YOUR HAND AND WE WILL GET A BIBLE

TO YOU.

BEFORE WE BEGIN THE SERMON, I WANT TO

START OFF WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT, IN TWO

WEEKS WE'RE GO TO BE TELEVISIONING THE

BATTLE OF THE BORDERS, AND I HEARD IT'S

A BIG DEAL, THE PACKERS VERSUS THE

VIKINGS.

I'M FROM DENVER AND THE BRONCOS PLAY THE

RAIDERS.

AND MY DAD WOULD WEAR THIS SHIRT THAT

SAID REAL MEN WEAR BLACK.

AND I KNEW HE HAD A FEW HECKLERS IN THE

CROWD.

AND I WAS SURPRISED WE LEFT THE STADIUM

ALIVE MANY NIGHTS.

THAT WAS A BATTLE ALSO.

SO YOU ARE INVITED TO COME AND JOIN US

FOR THE BATTLE OF THE BORDERS HERE.

WE ARE GOING TO HAVE FOOD, AND I THINK
THE PACKERS WILL BE ON THIS SIDE AND THE
VIKINGS ON THIS SIDE.

THEY WILL BE DIVIDED.

LET'S GO AHEAD AND OPEN UP WITH A WORD
OF PRAYER.

WE HAVE ONE MORE PERSON UP HERE WHO

NEEDS A BIBLE AND A FEW BACK THERE.

YOU CAN KEEP YOUR HAND UP AS WE PRAY.

DEAR LORD, WE THANK YOU FOR THIS TIME

TOGETHER TO WORSHIP YOU AND GIVE YOU

PRAISE AND HONOR, FOR YOU ARE HOLY AND

THE ONE TRUE GOD WHO REIGNS IN HEAVEN.

AND YOU HAVE AUTHORITY AND POWER OVER

ALL THE EARTH.

I THANK YOU FOR THE PARENTS THAT ARE IN

THIS ROOM AND THE JOB THEY'RE DOING WITH

THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR KIDS.

SO, LORD, I PRAY THAT YOU WOULD CONVICT

US TO HONOR OUR PARENTS AND TO GIVE YOU

PRAISE THROUGH HONORING THEM.

GIVE US EYES TO HEAR -- EYES TO SEE AND

EARS TO HEAR THE THINGS OF GOD.

WE GIVE YOU THIS PRAYER IN JESUS' NAME,

AMEN.

OKAY, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

THEY'RE OFTEN DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS.

THE FIRST THREE COMMANDS, THEY TELL US

ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

WE LIKE TO CALL THAT THE VERTICAL

RELATIONSHIP.

AND HOPEFULLY YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST
THREE COMMANDS.

THE FIRST COMMAND IS TO HAVE NO OTHER
GODS BEFORE YAHWEH, MAKE NO IDOLS AND TO
ONLY GIVE HIM OUR WORSHIP.

THE SECOND COMMAND IS TO HONOR THE NAME
OF THE LORD.

NOT MISUSE IT, BUT TO CALL ON IT IN
TIMES OF REFUGE.

AND THE THIRD COMMAND IS TO KEEP THE
SABBATH DAY HOLY WHERE WE SPEND TIME
WITH GOD DAILY IN OUR LIVES.

AND THE SECOND HALF OF THE COMMANDMENTS,
THE NEXT SEVEN, THEY DEAL WITH THE
HORIZONTAL RELATIONSHIPS.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER, HOW
GOD INTENDS FOR US TO TREAT EACH OTHER.

IN THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT, GOD BEGINS IT
WITH OUR PARENTS.

AND WHAT'S IRONIC ABOUT ALL THIS IS GOD
GIVES US MORE COMMANDS ABOUT BEING WITH
EACH OTHER THAN ABOUT BEING WITH HIM.

HE GIVES US SEVEN COMMANDS.

SO HE'S DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH HOW WE
TREAT ONE ANOTHER.

HOW WE LOVE EACH OTHER AND HOW WE TREAT
OUR PARENTS.

AND WE BEGIN A SPECIAL WORD IN THIS 4TH
COMMANDMENT, IT'S HONOR.

AND IN HEBREW THIS WORD IS KABASE AND IT

MEANS TO PRIZE HIGHLY, TO RESPECT, TO CARE FOR AND OBEY.

AND SO LET'S GO AHEAD AND OPEN UP OUR BIBLES TO EXODUS CHAPTER 20 AND LET'S GO TO THE 12TH VERSE.

YOU'VE GOT GENESIS, EXODUS AND THEN CHAPTER 20 VERSE 12.

LET'S READ THIS TOGETHER OUT LOUD.

I'LL START US OFF.

HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG IN THE LAND THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GIVING YOU.

WHEN MARTIN LUTHER WROTE ABOUT HONOR, THIS IS WHAT HE SAID.

HE SAID HONOR IS A HIGHER THING EVEN THAN LOVE BECAUSE HONOR INCLUDES LOVE, IT INCLUDES HUMILITY AND IT INCLUDES SPEAKING MODESTLY TOWARD THE MAJESTY CONCEALED WITHIN OUR PARENTS.

THERE IS MAJESTY CONCEALED WITHIN OUR PARENTS.

AND HONOR, IT IS AN INTENTIONAL BEHAVIOR TOWARD OUR PARENTS.

AND IN THIS FOURTH COMMAND WE GET A GLIMPSE OF GOD'S WILL AND HE BEGINS BY TELLING US ABOUT OUR PARENTS. AND THIS IS HOW HIS WILL BEGINS, BY BRINGING US TO THIS EARTH THROUGH OUR PARENTS.

AND WHEN WE HONOR OUR PARENTS, WE HONOR THE LORD.

OFTENTIMES WHEN WE HONOR OUR PARENTS IT

CARRIES OVER TO OTHER RELATIONSHIPS.

WE DEVELOP A RESPECT AND LOVE FOR OUR PARENTS AND THAT CARRIES OVER TO HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER.

WE OFFER NOTHING WHEN WE COME INTO THIS WORLD, AND THANKFULLY, GOD CREATES US THROUGH OUR PARENTS AND WE CAN BE THANKFUL FOR THIS.

AND WE CAN ALSO BE THANKFUL THAT OUR PARENTS BRING US INTO THIS HARSH WORLD SAFELY.

THEY ARE THE FIRST ONES TO HOLD US IN THEIR ARMS BESIDES THE DOCTOR.

AND THEY ARE THE FIRST ONES TO PROVIDE A PLACE OF REST FOR US TO SLEEP.

AND THEY OFFER THE NUTRIENTS FOR US TO LIVE AND GROW IN THIS LIFE.

AND THEY EVEN TELL US TO USE DEODORANT WHEN WE WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS.

I WAS PLAYING GOLF ONE DAY DURING A WARM COLORADO DAY AND I SPENT THE WHOLE DAY -- I WAS LIKE TEN YEARS OLD, AND I WAS PLAYING GOLF OUTSIDE WHEN MY MOM PICKED ME UP FROM WORK.

AND I ENTERED THE CAR AND YOU COULD SMELL IT.

EVEN I COULD SMELL IT IN THE CAR.

AND MY MOM SAYS, MATT, IF YOU WANT A GIRLFRIEND, YOU NEED TO WEAR DEODORANT.

SO I KEPT THAT IN THE BACK OF MY MIND.

MY MOM, SHE REALLY CARES FOR ME.

ENOUGH ABOUT THAT.

WE REMEMBER HOW JESUS ENTERED THIS
WORLD.

IT WAS A HARSH WORLD.

KING HEROD WANTED TO TAKE HIS LIFE.

SO KING HEROD SENT SHEPARDS TO VISIT THE
CHRIST CHILD AND HOPEFULLY THE MAGI
WOULD COME BACK TO TELL THEM WHERE HE
WAS SO HE WOULD KILL THEM.

THEN AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO
JOSEPH AND TOLD THEM TO FLEE TO EGYPT SO
HE COULD FLEE FROM THE WRATH OF KING
HEROD.

AND JOSEPH TOOK A CAMEL AND FLED FOR
OVER 200 MILES ON A CAMEL TO EGYPT.
AND THANKFULLY GOD HAS GIVEN OUR PARENTS
THE AUTHORITY TO PROTECT US AND TO GUIDE
US THROUGH THIS HARSH WORLD.

I WAS BORN IN 1980 AND I LIVED MY FIRST
THREE YEARS IN CALIFORNIA.

AND OFTENTIMES, MY FAMILY AND I WOULD GO
HIKING IN THE MEADOW KIND OWE CLIFS AND
ONE SPECIFICS CALIFORNIA AFTERNOON WE
WENT HIKING.

AND I WAS A YOUNG THREE-YEAR OLD BOY
EXCITED TO GO HIKING, AND ALL OF A
SUDDEN I WAS UPSET WITH MY PARENTS
BECAUSE THEY WERE GOING SLOW.

AND I BEGAN JOGGING AHEAD OF THEM AND
THEN I STARTED RUNNING FASTER AND FASTER

AND FASTER AND NEXT THING YOU KNOW, I'M
50 FEET FROM THE EDGE OF A CLIFF.
50 FEET TURNS INTO 40 FEET, 40 FEET
TURNS INTO 30 FEET AND NEXT THING YOU
KNOW 20 FEET FROM THE EDGE OF A CLIFF.
AND I HEAR, STOP, MATTHEW, STOP.
20 FEET FROM THE EDGE, STOP.
AND I STOPPED.
MY PARENTS, THEY HUGGED ME AND THEY
EMBRACED ME.
I COULD HAVE BEEN ROADKILL, THINK ABOUT
THAT.
I WOULDN'T BE UP HERE TODAY SPEAKING TO
YOU.
THEY EMBRACED ME AND THEY SHOWED ME LOVE
AND HOPEFULLY THEY PUNISHED ME FOR
RUNNING ASTRAY.
YOU SEE, WE ARE INDEBTED TO OUR PARENTS.
I KNOW I'M INDEBTED TO MY PARENTS.
RECENTLY I PLAYED GOLF WITH A FRIEND OF
MINE.
I PLAYED GOLF IN COLLEGE.
I GOT A GOLF SCHOLARSHIP, AND ONE
AFTERNOON I PLAYED GOLF WITH MY FRIEND
AND HE TOLD ME ABOUT HIS FATHER WHO HAD
JUST PASSED AWAY.
AND AS I'M ABOUT TO PUTT, HIS CELL PHONE
RINGS.
I DON'T LIKE CELL PHONES RINGING WHEN I
PUTTING.

IT WAS HIS WIFE TELLING HIM THAT HER
FATHER WAS ABOUT TO PASS AWAY ALSO.
I TALKED TO MY FRIEND AND I LEARNED THAT
THEY WERE ABOUT TO HEAD TO FLORIDA TO
VISIT HER FATHER.
AND FINALLY, HIS WIFE MADE IT TO FLORIDA
AND SHE WAS NEXT TO HER FATHER ON HIS
DEATH BED, AND SHE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT
HIS SALVATION.
SHE DIDN'T KNOW IF HE BELIEVED IN JESUS
OR NOT.
SO SHE ASKED HIM, DO YOU BELIEVE JESUS
IS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR?
AND HE CONFESSED, YES, I BELIEVE.
BUT THEN SHE ASKED HIM, HAVE YOU BEEN
BAPTIZED?
AND HE HADN'T BEEN BAPTIZED.
AND THEN HE CONSENTED TO BEING BAPTIZED
AFTER LEARNING ABOUT THE COMMANDS THAT
GOD GIVES US ABOUT BEING BAPTIZED.
AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT SHE BAPTIZED HER
FATHER.
CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT?
GIVING YOUR DAD THIS GIFT, THE ASSURANCE
OF HIS SALVATION.
THE WATER AND THE WORD CONNECTED.
AND IT STILL HITS ME TODAY.
AND SHE WAS WITH HER FATHER UNTIL HIS
LAST BREATH.
HONORING YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER, IT
CONTINUES UNTIL WE PASS AWAY.

THIS TASK OF HONORING OUR FATHER AND
MOTHER.

IT CONTINUES THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES.
AND IT SHOWS US THE WILL OF GOD.
AND ULTIMATELY, MY FRIENDS IN THIS ROOM,
THIS IS HOW GOD LEADS US TO FULFILL THE
OTHER COMMANDS.

I KNOW WHEN I WAS YOUNG I WOULD GET
ANGRY AT FRIENDS AND MY MOTHER WOULD
TELL ME TO LET THE ANGER FALL AWAY.
SHE WOULD LEAD ME AWAY FROM MURDER.
AND AS A YOUNG BOY I WOULD WANT THINGS
SO BAD, BUT SHE WOULD LEAD ME AWAY FROM
STEALING.

YOU SEE, OUR PARENTS ARE EXTREME
INFLUENCES ON OUR LIVES.

AND THIS FOURTH COMMANDMENT, IT IS THE
FIRST COMMAND GIVEN TO US WITH A
PROMISE.

SO LET'S GO AHEAD AND FLIP TO EPHESIANS,
AND WE'RE GOING TO HEAR ABOUT THIS
PROMISE GIVEN TO US.

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 6 VERSE 1.

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN, ACTS, ROMANS,
1ST CORINTHIANS, 2ND CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS, EPHESIANS.

IT'S IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

LET'S GO AHEAD AND READ THIS OUT LOUD
TOGETHER.

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 6:1.

PAUL IS WRITING TO THE EPHESIANS AND HE SAYS THIS.

HE SAYS -- LET'S READ IT OUT LOUD.

CHILDREN OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN THE LORD, FOR THIS IS RIGHT.

HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER, WHICH IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT, WITH THE PROMISE THAT IT MAY GO WELL WITH YOU AND THAT YOU MAY ENJOY LIFE ON THE EARTH.

AND PAUL CONTINUES.

LET'S GO AHEAD AND READ VERSE 4.

FATHER'S, DO NOT EXASPERATE YOUR CHILDREN.

INSTEAD, BRING THEM UP IN THE TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD.

THERE'S A PROMISE ATTACHED AND IT PROMISES LONG LIFE ON THE EARTH.

MY MOTHER'S FRIEND, DIANA, SHE JUST RETIRED FROM HER JOB.

AND HER MOTHER NEEDED A PLACE TO STAY.

SO DIANA OPENED UP HER HOUSE TO HER MOM.

AND HER MOM IS ELDERLY, MAYBE 80 OR 90.

AND I REMEMBER GOING WITH MY MOM OVER TO DIANA'S HOUSE AND SOMETHING SURPRISED ME AS I ARRIVED TO THE HOUSE.

WE WERE IN CONVERSATION WITH DIANA AND THEN DIANA BROUGHT A SWEATER TO HER MOM WHO WAS COLD.

AND THEN SHE BROUGHT A GLASS OF WATER TO HER MOM.

AND BEING A YOUNG BOY, THIS WAS KIND OF

SHOCKING TO ME.

AND THEN DIANA CHANGED THE CHANNEL ON
THE TELEVISION FOR HER MOTHER.

IT WAS SOMETHING I HAD NEVER SEEN
BEFORE, A RETIRED PERSON CARING FOR HER
MOTHER.

AND IN A WORLD WHERE PARENTS ARE OFTEN
SENT TO GO INTO NURSING HOMES, TO
SHUT-INS, TO ELDERLY CARE UNITES, DIANA
WAS THERE FOR HER MOM CARING FOR HER
EVERY NEED.

AND THE LORD RIGHT NOW IS BLESSING HER
WITH A LONG LIFE IN THE LAND THE LORD
HAS GIVEN THEM.

PARENTS -- MANY OF YOU ARE PARENTS.
YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY, AND IT'S A
JOYOUS RESPONSIBILITY TO BRING YOUR
CHILD TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

MY MOTHER, AS A KID SHE WOULD OFTENTIMES
LEAD ME IN A PRAYER AT NIGHT.

AND WE WOULD BE IN SEPARATE ROOMS.

IT WOULD BE COMPLETELY DARK.

AND SHE WOULD YELL FROM ACROSS THE ROOM,
SHE WOULD SAY GOD BLESS MOM, GOD BLESS
MATT, GOD BLESS UNCLE MELVERN, GOD BLESS
UNCLE PHIL AND AUNT MARY.

AND THEN IT WOULD BE MY TURN.

AND I SAY GOD BLESS MOMMY'S JOB.

GOD BLESS DADDY'S JOB AND GOD BLESS
MATT'S JOB.

AND I DIDN'T HAVE A JOB AT THE TIME, BUT
I WAS PRAYING FOR IT.

AND TO THIS DAY THE HABIT OF PRAYER HAS
CONTINUED IN MY LIFE.

MOTHER'S, YOU HAVE AN EXTREMELY JOYOUS
RESPONSIBILITY TO LEAD YOUR CHILDREN TO
THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

ALSO, PARENTS, YOU HAVE THE
RESPONSIBILITY TO LEAD YOUR KIDS TO THE
WORD OF GOD.

MANY OF YOU, AS I CAN HEAR, HAVE BROUGHT
YOUR CHILDREN TO THIS CHURCH TO HEAR THE
WORD OF GOD.

AND MAYBE YOUR CHILDREN ARE DOWNSTAIRS
IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM.

BUT CONSIDERING THE MANY REBUKES THAT WE
GIVE TO OUR KIDS, THEY ALSO NEED TO
TASTE FORGIVENESS.

THEY NEED TO TASTE GRACE.

AND WHEN WE BRING THEM TO CHURCH TO HEAR
THE WORD OF GOD, WE SHOW THEM LOVE.

AND THIS TASTE OF FORGIVENESS IT WILL
CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THEIR ENTIRE LIVES.

THE APOSTLE PAUL WRITES TO THE
THESSALONIANS SAYING THAT WE APOSTLES OF
JESUS CHRIST ARE AS GENTLE AS A MOTHER
CARING FOR HER LITTLE CHILDREN.

PAUL COMPARES HIS MINISTRY TO THE LOVE
OF A MOTHER.

WHAT A JOY YOU HAVE TO BE A PARENT.

TO BRING THEM UP IN A THE THINGS OF GOD.

JESUS, DURING HIS TIME ON THIS EARTH, HE SHOWED US WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HONOR OUR PARENTS.

SOMETIMES I CHUCKLE WHEN I HEAR THE STORY IN LUKE CHAPTER 4 WHERE HE WAS 12 YEARS OLD AND HE WAS LEFT STRANDED IN A TEMPLE FOR LIKE FOUR DAYS.

I MEAN CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT, LIKE LEAVING YOUR KID FOR FOUR DAYS? SOME OF YOU MAYBE YOU CAN.

BUT HOPEFULLY YOU WOULD NEVER DO THAT. JESUS'S PARENTS, THEY LEFT FOR A DAY THINKING HE WAS BY THEIR SIDE AND THEN THEY FINALLY REALIZED THAT JESUS WASN'T THERE.

SO THEY WENT BACK TO THE TEMPLE FINDING JESUS TEACHING THE EXPERTS IN THE LAW AND JESUS DID NOT REBUKE THEM.

I WOULD BE ANGRY WITH MY PARENTS IF THEY DID THAT TO ME.

LUKE TELLS US AS THEY TRAVELED BACK TO NAZARETH HE WAS OBEDIENT TO THEM.

AND THERE ARE CHILDREN THROUGH OBEDIENCE THEY GROW IN STATURE AND WISDOM.

THEY GROW IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND WITH MEN.

AND MY FRIENDS IN THIS ROOM, JESUS CHRIST NOT ONLY TEACHES US HOW TO HONOR OUR PARENTS, BUT HE TEACHES US HOW TO HONOR OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.

THIS IS WHAT JESUS HOLD HIS DISCIPLES.
HE SAID, YOU MAY LEARN THAT I LOVE MY
FATHER AND I DO EVERYTHING THAT MY
FATHER HAS COMMANDED ME.

JESUS' PRIORITY ON THIS EARTH WAS TO
HONOR HIS HEAVENLY FATHER, WASN'T IT?
IN FACT, THE OBEDIENCE TO HIS FATHER LED
HIM TO DEATH SO THAT WE CAN BECOME
CHILDREN OF GOD.

HE HONORED HIS FATHER AND GAVE UP HIS
LIFE TO FULFILL THE MISSION TO BRING
GOD'S FAMILY BACK TO THE FATHER.

AND WE CAN REJOICE WITH JOHN WHEN HE
WRITES IN HIS FIRST EPISTLE, HOW GREAT
THE LOVE THE FATHER HAS LAVISHED ON US
THAT WE CAN BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD.
AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE.

WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD.

AND THROUGH THE GRACE GIVEN TO US BY
JESUS CHRIST, YOU AND I CAN OBEY OUR
PARENTS FOR A LIFETIME.

AMEN.

