

**Intro: I had the unique opportunity yesterday to witness an act of kindness, of brotherly love between strangers. (Share) Ultimately it changed what I was going to talk about today because I believe that God is sharing something with us about the truth of the Law.**

**I. The importance of perspective.**

- A. (Exo 20:1-3) Often we forget how important it is to have God first in our thoughts. We find it difficult to focus on others and their issues, when our own problems seem either bigger or more important. The opposite can also be true, we can sometimes leave our own lives to fall to pieces because someone else needs our time and energy more than we do. Perspective is important - don't focus on their problems either, focus on God.
- B. The law is there for a reason; not only does it show us where we do not measure up, it also brings great benefits when you fulfill it. None of it is arbitrary. (1 John 4:7-8) It is because of our focus on God that we are free to love our neighbors.
- C. (Matt 22:35-40) When asked what was the greatest commandment, Christ lists two - one we listed above. The other, surprisingly, is not found in the 10 commandments directly. Instead, it is a summation of much of the rest of them. It is known as the law of Christ.

**Challenge: Do you have God foremost in your life? Or do you focus on yourself, others, or other worldly concerns? Put in some prayer this week and be sure that your focus is the Mary focus, sitting at God's feet. (Luke 10:38-42)**

**II. Be Burden Bearers!**

- A. (Gal 5:1-5), Legalism is not the goal here - I do not ask you to 'become circumcised', putting yourself back under the law. (Gal 5:13-18)
- B. Instead of putting yourself under the law of Moses (which is good) put yourself under the law of Christ (Gal 6:1-3). This does not mean personal responsibility goes out the window (Gal 6:4-10) but rather that it is our personal responsibility to give grace to others, just as we have received it. (1 Pet 4:10)
- C. (Matt 5:7) As opposed to (James 2:13). Don't forget what Christ said (Matt 18:21-35) We are called to be merciful. (Luke 6:36)
- D. We cannot bear the burdens alone, nor can we do so without rest. (Matt 11:28-30) This is why we honor God on the sabbath and keep it holy.
- E. We are only following Christ's example when we bear one another's burdens. After all, He bears all of our burdens. (Gal 2:20)

**Challenge: Make a conscious choice to put God first and then to see as He sees. It is this perspective that allows us to love every human, from Hitler to the homeless man - from your brother or sister to the stranger from across the world. It should never give us pleasure when someone goes to hell. Sure many deserve it, (you do too! How fun would that be? ... Not.) but we are not the judge - we are the hands and feet of Christ, to spread his mercy and grace. (Matt 5:44-45)**

**III. Love, a call to action.**

- A. Do not be prideful enough to think that you can fight your own battles. (1 Pet 5:6-7) Christ is the only one who can bear that weight.
- B. Love is an action. Loving people, as God loves people, means showing them grace - praying forgiveness on those who are currently nailing you to a tree (for instance). Love is the opposite of hatred, not anger. (Ps. 7:11)
- C. Hatred is reserved to sin (Prov 6:16-19), not to your brother. (Lev 19:17; 1 John 2:9)
- D. (Prov 10:12) Love is the key - Love God, Love your neighbor.

**Final Challenge: Do you ever run over conversations after the fact, thinking up better verbal knives you should have used to stab at your sparing partner... err I mean conversational counterpart? I do. Sometimes I rehash conversations from years ago, dredging up old bitterness, unable to completely let go. God calls us to switch our focus to Him, pulling up old conversations with Him and remembering how much He has forgiven us. Do that, and you will be able to put petty things behind you. Do that, and you will realize how petty everything else really is.**

**Focus on God, and you will naturally love everyone else as well - you will love them with your actions.  
(Jude 23)**

**Close: Poem on forgiveness**

**Final Song: I heard the voice of Jesus say**

**Scriptures, in order:**

Exo 20:1-3

1 John 4:7-8

Matt 22:35-40

Luke 10:38-42

Gal 5:1-5

Gal 5:13-18

Gal 6:1-3

Gal 6:4-10

1 Pet 4:10

Matt 5:7

James 2:13

Matt 18:21-35

Luke 6:36

Matt 11:28-30

Gal 2:20

Matt 5:44-45

1 Pet 5:6-7

Ps. 7:11

Prov 6:16-19

Lev 19:17


1 John 2:9

Prov 10:12

Jude 23

*We love  
others best  
when we  
love God  
most.*

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