

## The Greatest Story (Part 9):

The Beautiful & Broken Law

*Deuteronomy 5-6*

*Memory Verses: Deuteronomy 6:4-5, John 14:15*

### MANUSCRIPT

#### Introduction

Hello, My Name is Shevi and I am a Speedaholic. I can't stop speeding. I know the law. I see every speed limit sign. I have even gotten multiple speeding tickets throughout my life, two since becoming your pastor. (show speeding tickets) I've also been in over half a dozen wrecks. But that doesn't mean I should learn to obey the traffic laws as much as it means I just need to learn how to be a better driver at high speeds. (holds up stop sign) You would think I might have learned my lesson when I was going too fast to stop in time behind a stopped school bus. I just went on by endangering the lives of the students getting off. When I had to go to court for this and stand before the judge I told him I had learned my lesson... but have I? I still speed every now and then. I always think... you know just a little over won't hurt anyone. So I keep it about 5 to 10 over... but sometimes I just lose focus and I can get to 25 over without even knowing it. It's hard to control.

Raise your hand if you have ever gotten a ticket for or had to pay a fine for breaking a traffic law of any kind? Okay... how about if this stop sign makes you nervous. The law. It isn't about knowing it... it's about obeying it. And, if there is anything traffic laws like speed limits teach us, it's that we can't obey them. Maybe some of them... maybe some of the time... but not all of them and definitely not all of the time.

Over the course of the past two months we've been on a journey to know God's story. To know why he created us, why he allowed us to fall into sin, why he has preserved us even though we continue to disobey him, why he has promised to bless us despite our depravity, why he has chosen us as his people, and eventually how he intends to save us from his own wrath. God's story is a story of his salvation and every page points towards Jesus Christ our savior.

But what makes us want Jesus as our savior? Of course... we know we need salvation right? We live in a broken world, separated from the perfection of God's plan. But that doesn't necessarily make us yearn for a savior. In fact, many of us can be conned into believing that we can save ourselves. That we have the ability within us to be good. And if we could just be good enough then we could perhaps earn God's favor and salvation. This notion of being good enough to earn God's favor is nothing new. It is as old as time. I'm sure Adam and Even justified their

rebellion in the garden saying; ... "it's just one sin." "Surely God will not judge us based on one mistake." If that were the case they would be placing their faith in their own goodness rather than God's holiness and that is a death sentence.

This is why God continues to tell us over and over again that when he blesses people he is doing it for his glory and for his great name and not because they have earned it. Noah was saved, not because of his own righteousness but because of God's sovereign choice. Abraham was chosen to be the father of many nations not because of his righteousness but because of God's sovereign choice. This is why God makes such a big deal of pointing out in Genesis 15 that HE (God) had to credit Abraham with HIS (God's) righteousness. Abraham's righteousness wasn't good enough.... so he needed God's righteousness. Look at **Isaiah 64:6** – all of our righteousness is like filthy rags. And how do we know that our righteousness is filthy rags? How do we know we will never measure up to the standard of God's perfection? The Law! The law is a giant Stop Sign... it says... do not pass. Yet we keep running right past it. And so... the law shows us God's standard and how miserably short we fall from it. **Romans 3:23** – for all have sinned (all have ignored God's stop sign) and fall short of the glory of God. No matter how hard we try, no matter how good we try to be... we will never be good enough, we will never stop speeding, and that is the purpose of the law.

If you get nothing out of this message I pray you get this... you are not good enough... you cannot be good enough... you are not righteousness enough... your righteousness is like filthy rags and because of that... you cannot earn salvation by trying to be good enough... you cannot obey the law of God... and thus you need a savior. **The Beauty of the Law Is This: I'm Not Good Enough, But Christ Is.** So, turn over to **Deuteronomy 5** and lets begin reading in **verse 1 through 12**. Now skip to **16-22, 28-29, 32**.

#### Teaching

The main thing I want us to see today is that even though the law is broken and cannot offer us salvation... it is still a beautiful thing. You see... **The Ten Commandments Show Us How To Live A Lifestyle of Worship (Deut. 5)** Deuteronomy is a collection of a couple of sermons that Moses gave to the entire nation of Israel just as they were preparing to enter into the promised land. The Israelites are about to take the promised land after 40 years of wandering and Moses is giving them a recap and final thoughts before entering. He starts out by reminding them of when God gave them the law and how God spoke directly to them... face to face. You see the first thing we learn right off the bat is this... **the law shows us that God loves us and desires to have a relationship with us.** The law is not some sinister trap to catch you in sin... rather it is guidelines to lead you to a

relationship with God. And he tells us what that relationship looks like though the 10 commandments.

First we are told how we are to love God. We love him by having no other gods before him. That we are to be a monotheistic people who only worship one god. In ancient times people were use to worshipping a pantheon of gods... but our God says.. I Am that I Am... I Am the only one God so don't play that game any more. Just worship me.

He says we are to have no idols. In ancient times it was common practice to worship engraved statues as gods. Why... who knows. Most likely because mankind craves worship so much that they will give it to anything. We see this in the worship of the golden calf immediately after Moses gave the 10 commandments the first time in **Exodus 32**. To us this simply means that we don't have any idols in our life that we put in the position of God. He is to have first place in our lives by a long shot. Our God is jealous God and will not share our affection with anyone or anything else.

He says we are to not take his name in vain. This doesn't mean not to curse as many take it to mean. Rather it is much deeper. It means to respect his name. It means that when we claim his name as a Christian. Christian means little Christ or Christ follower. When we claim to be a part of his family we bare his name and thus we must be careful not to bring dishonor to his name. We must represent his name well. If you claim to be a Christian act like one. If you make a promise in his name... you better keep it. If you preach his word you better not water it down or change it to suit your desires. In short... don't be a hypocrite.

And he says that we are to observe the Sabbath. To the Israelites this meant that they had strict rules about not working on Saturday. For us this is different because the New Testament tells us that Christ is our Sabbath and that our rest is in him. Still... we are to have a day of worship and rest in honor or what God has done for us. We observe the Sabbath by living a lifestyle of worship rather than just one day. So we live a lifestyle of depending on him in the word, in prayer, and in praise. All the time... not just some of the time.

So we love God... but we are also told that having a relationship with God involves our loving others as well. Get this... **When we love God's children who he loves he accepts it as love for him and an act of worship.** So he tells us to honor our father and mother above others. We are to trust, obey, reflect, and love our parents as unto the Lord. This is an act of worship... to love those in our home.

But he also gives us rules for living in society. Don't murder. God is in charge of who lives and dies. For you to murder someone means you hate them.

He says, don't commit adultery. Sex is good in God's way, in a marriage, but outside of God's way it is a selfish act and disobedient.

Justin Bieber just disclosed that as he had rededicated his life to Christ he abstained from sex for a year before his marriage. In doing so he said this "abstaining from sex is a way of showing God that you are not ruled by the flesh but dependent upon God." He also said... "sex outside of marriage can often cause pain." I'm glad that Justin is growing in his walk with Christ and that God is showing him these profound truths. He's absolutely right. Sex within God's standard is good and an act of worship. But sex outside God's standard hurts other people and is selfish.

He says don't steal or lie or covet. All of these show that you are more interested in self promotion and pleasure than you are the happiness of your neighbors. In a nutshell... stop being selfish and start loving others in the manner you would want them to love you. Be about others rather than be self-centered. This is hard... but the more we learn to stop living for ourselves and live for others... the more we learn to love God how God wants to be loved. He wants a relationship with us and this is how he wants it.

In **Matthew 22:34-40** love we see a man asking Jesus what the greatest commandment is. This is how Jesus responds. "Love God with all your heart, mind, and strength." Now look at **Deuteronomy 6:5**. Isn't this the same statement? And then he says and love your neighbor as yourself. All of the law is summed up in these two. Wow. Do you see it? The 10 commandments are a lengthy explanation of the two greatest commandments. The first four dealing with loving God the last 6 dealing with loving people. And all the other ceremonial laws and civil laws and moral laws all are summed up by this... love God and love others. This is how we have a relationship with God.

But there is a problem. As we've already stated. The stop sign glares at us. We cannot live up to all of these all of the time. We've all lied, we've all stolen, we've all hated, we've all chosen to neglect God, we've all got idols. So there is no hope for us having a relationship with God right? I mean **Ro 3:23** right... we all fall short! We can't love God perfectly and we can't love people perfectly... the law is beautiful but broken.

Ah... don't fret just yet... but get this. Turn over with me to a lengthy portion of scripture but one that is vitally important this morning. **Ro 6:14-23**. It tells us that we were once slaves to sin – we couldn't live up to the law even though we had to. But... now we no longer have to live up to the law... because Christ has done that for us. And now in appreciation of that we freely make ourselves slaves to God and slaves to righteousness... not out of compulsion to the law but because of the grace of Christ.

Now look at **2 Corinthians 5:13-15**. We are compelled to love Jesus because he has loved us and freed us from our inability to live up to the law. So get this... the love of Christ in saving us causes us to live for him and love him with a lifestyle of worship – both for God and for men. We used to fear the law cause it showed us our depravity. Now we love the law cause it

shows us the love of Christ and how to love him back! **We worship God not because he commands us to... but because we want to... because of what he has done for us in Christ!** **The Beauty of the Law Is This: I'm Not Good Enough, But Christ Is**

Lastly and very quickly I want you to see this played out practically. If we really love the law as a means of worshipping our savior God... then what is the next step. Well you see **The Shema Shows Us How To Live A Lifestyle of Evangelism And Discipleship (Deut. 6)** So... **6:4-5** is called the Shema. It means to listen. And, it is one of our memory verses for the week. It is simple... the Lord is our God and he is One God and we are to love him with all we have. Once again, we've seen that the law is now how we worship God because we love him.

So if this is our love for God then we are to share it with others. Look at verses **6:6-13**. We are to become people who lead others to worship God – disciple makers, fishers of men. First we are to teach it to our children **vs7**. Our primary mission is to disciple our families first. And it shows us how. Have spiritual conversations all day everyday. This is a much bigger sermon but so important to get here. You are to disciple your family first.

Next you are to show your faith wherever you go **vs8**. Put the law on your forehead. You disciple and evangelize wherever you go. Your circles... your job, your neighborhood, your teams, etc... Live out your faith everywhere. And then you are again to show it your home **vs9**. This reminds me of **Joshua 24:15** – as for me and my house we will serve the lord.

Lastly you are to go to new countries at tell it **vs10-13**. Just as the Israelites were going into a new country... so we are called to go into all the world to tell them of our love for our God and the relationship we have with him. **We evangelize and disciple everywhere; starting in our own house, in our own community, and then to the whole world.** And we do this... not because it's commanded... but because we want to... because we love God. **The Beauty of the Law Is This: I'm Not Good Enough, But Christ Is**

### Application (Resolution, You)

So there you have it... the law is broken... We can't live up to it and it demands our lives because of it. We are depraved... we are hopeless... we are helpless.

But the law is beautiful. Because Jesus has paid the penalty of the law in our place. So we do not fear the law... we embrace it. Now we can live according to the law as a symbol of worship without fearing its

consequences if we fail to uphold all of it. The law shows how to worship God. If we truly love him then we want to know how to worship him... and will try to worship him as he desires... Here's your second memory verse of the week. **John 14:15** – “if you love me, you will keep my commandments.” We worship Jesus, we love God and others... by living according to his desires in the law. **The Beauty of the Law Is This: I'm Not Good Enough, But Christ Is** and so he is worthy of your worship.

### Conclusion

So the Stop sign has new meaning today. No longer do you need to Stop sinning or you will die. But now you must...

Stop trying to earn God's favor and know its already been paid for.

Stop trying to be perfect and trust Jesus.

Stop living for yourself and now live for Him because of what he's done for you

You will never be good enough according to the standard of the law... but according to the standard of Christ... if you would just trust in his atonement... you are covered by his blood and credited his righteousness... and thats worth worshipping him and telling others about him... **The Beauty of the Law Is This: I'm Not Good Enough, But Christ Is**