

HONOR YOUR MOTHER (& FATHER)!

Scripture used: Exodus 20:12 (NLT), John 19:26-27

OVERVIEW

We are entering a new ten-week series about the Ten Commandments. The Big Idea of this series is that we need to clearly understand how the Ten Commandments apply to us in modern life. We are beginning with the Commandment “Honor your father and your mother” (Exodus 20:12), with an emphasis on moms because it’s Mother’s Day! The specific example we turn to is Jesus during His final moments on the cross in John 19:26-27. Jesus saw His mother nearby during His final moments and turned to John to arrange for Mary’s care after His death. Despite His pain, Jesus takes time to make provisions for His earthly mother. What excuse do we have?

KEY POINTS

- 1) The Ten Commandments are very relevant to our daily lives and struggles. There are four insights that we can use to help frame our larger conversation about the Ten Commandments.
 - a. They aren’t called the Ten Suggestions. We are meant to live according to the Ten Commandments. Human civilizations come and go with different values, but the Commandments came from God.
 - b. They are intended to be great blessings to those who follow them. The Israelites were not given the Ten Commandments until after they were God’s chosen people. Moses received the Commandments and passed them to his people as a means of ensuring their prosperity.
 - c. The first four deal with our relationship with God, while the last six focus on our relationships with each other. This helps us understand that God comes first, but we can’t neglect those around us. And as of relationship with God strengthens, it strengthens all the other relationships, too.
 - d. They will help infuse God into every aspect of our lives. We can expect good in our lives when we take the time to learn and adopt the Ten Commandments.
- 2) Honoring our mothers and mother figures means placing great weight or importance on them. They are not perfect, of course. But neither are we! Their brokenness is no different than our own. We can’t use their past sins as an excuse to dishonor them.
- 3) Honoring our mothers and mother figures requires us to consider these women in three specific contexts.
 - a. The struggle to live out her purpose. Everyone faces difficult choices, and it takes courage to make the right decision. Every mother and mother figure should be honored for the times that she got things right, but also forgiven for the times when she got things wrong. We can honor these women by recognizing that they did the best they could!
 - b. The struggle to live with her pain. The difficult experiences of our lives often shape our behavior in profound ways. Our worst behavior is often caused by our past pain. Many mothers struggle in silence, bearing incredible burdens of guilt and shame. We can honor these women by understanding and gaining empathy for their difficult situations!
 - c. The struggle to live within God’s unfolding plan. Jesus will redeem the lives of everyone who accepts His grace. But only children can redeem the stories of the mothers and mother figures. We can honor these women by becoming the next great chapter in their lives!

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - We have to be able to consider our own mothers and mother figures as broken and fallen individuals. This takes us from the perspective of anger (or even judgment) to one of love and empathy. When was the last time you honored your mother? Do you allow flaws to diminish her role in your life?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Our mothers and mother figures need to be forgiven for what they did wrong, and honored for what they did right. Do you really believe she did the best she could? Have you taken the time to talk to her about the experiences that shaped her life? If it’s not too late, could you do that now?
- 3) **DO** - Mothers and mother figures look at their offspring for confirmation that they were successful as caregivers. Do you take seriously the responsibility to act as the next great chapter of her life? Identify actions you can take this week that will demonstrate this to her. Then pray for the opportunities to come!