

BIBLE

PARALLEL

LINES

Parallel Lines Pt. 4: Honor the Maker

Exodus 20:8-12 *“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”*

12 *“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.*

I have been splitting up the commandments in this series so far. Moses is reminding the Israelite people of the Ten Commandments. Leviticus 19:1 says *“The Lord said to Moses, 2 “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.”* Why repeat them? I took a little study of the timeline and it looks like God gave most of His instructions within the first two to three years from the exodus from Egypt. It had not been that long. God has been methodically giving these people a structure of law and a structure of His kingdom on earth. The Ten commandments are the foundation of all the laws.

To further this, I suspect that these new laws and commands from God (through Moses) addressed the sins of the times. Were people having sex with animals? Did they sleep with their

daughters and steal their neighbors' animals? Human kind (within the community) were probably falling apart. I also suspect that they may have been mimicking the Egyptian way of life that they had been living under for 400 years. If you look at the Ten commandments and the Levitical law, you will see a line in the sand. Honor God and what He has made or perish.

In Leviticus 19:3 it says *"Each of you must respect your mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. I am the Lord your God."* Honoring the sabbath and your mother and father are in the same verse. I don't think it is by mistake. I believe that honoring your mother and father are the literal line in the sand. In the Ten Commandments we have honoring God and what He has done in the first 5. The last 5 commands want you to honor people. Mother and father are people but they represent how people were created and by whom.

God created and then He rested. Here comes more parallel lines. Mark 2:27 *"Then he (Jesus) said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.'* Notice that God is saying to honor your mother and father and the land He gave you will be blessed. The sabbatical year asks you to rest the land. God wants us to rest one day a week. The religious rulers had complained that Jesus broke the sabbath law by eating grain on the rest day. They considered that work. Without getting too technical, the heart of the rest day is to not work because God rested too after 6 days. Starving is not part of the deal in Jesus eyes.

Matthew 15:3-6 *"Jesus replied, 'And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? 4 For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.' 5 But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is 'devoted to God,' 6 they are not to 'honor their father or mother' with it. Thus, you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition."*

Here is why I call these two commands the turning point or a line in the sand. God made creation. He asked that creation to tend to the land, subdue it, and fill it. To take God's lead and create more creation. We are to do this in the name of God. We are to rest because God rested. He made our mother and father. They created us like God created them. To honor God is to honor His creation (mother and father). To honor your parents is to honor the God who made them. Look at the rest of the commands. Don't steal, murder, or envy. Those things ruin God's way. It ruins God's good name. To turn around and not be holy is an insult to God and your parents. Hence, the line in the sand.

John 9:14 *"Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath."* Read this chapter. It's a great story. The religious rulers broke all the rules in this one. Did you notice Jesus healed him on the sabbath? Jesus mentioned in verse 4 that night is coming. I suspect that this event took place on a Friday just before the Jewish sabbath day would begin at 6 pm. Nobody is respected in this story. Not the miracle, the parents, the blind man, or Jesus.

One last parallel line is found in Matthew 6:23 *"But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"* Look at John 9:41 *"Jesus said, 'If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.'"* We can see what God has made and provided. We can see the hungry and could honor and help out parents. There are laws and there is why the law was there in the first place. Why do we do what we do? Is it to honor ourselves or is it to honor those who made us? Maybe we would see what the Lord has put before us to love a little clearer?