

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Pastor Terry Feix continued our series on the Sermon on the Mount, explaining the covenants God made with his people. The old covenant was built on the law that was given to Moses. God gave commandments, or rules, to guide a nation, Israel, to give them a way into righteousness, a law of works (something that was not completely achievable and required ongoing sacrifices). The religious leaders enacted 613 laws around the Ten Commandments and were impossible to obey 100%. The law revealed the need for a Savior. God made a new covenant with his people, he sent Jesus to fulfill the law, and to instill a new covenant written on the individual hearts of Christians. The new covenant is fulfilled by faith, and it is proven by obedience to the greatest commandments, to love God and others –the entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.

SCRIPTURE

EXODUS 31:18 NLT

¹⁸ When the Lord finished speaking with Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, written by the finger of God.

JEREMIAH 31:31-32 NLT

³¹ “The day is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. ³² This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the Lord.

GALATIANS 3:23-26 NLT

²³ Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed. ²⁴ Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. ²⁵ And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian. ²⁶ For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

MATTHEW 5:17-20 NLT

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

MATTHEW 22:34-40 NLT

34 But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. 35 One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" 37 Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from Terry's message?
2. Read Exodus 31:18, Jeremiah 31:31-33, and Galatians 3:23-26. What is old covenant and what purpose did it serve?
3. What made the Old Covenant impossible to keep? (Whose obedience is it based on)
4. Read Matthew 5:17-20, 22:34-40. What is the new covenant?
5. Why are we able to keep the new covenant? (Whose obedience is it based on)
6. Reread Matthew 22:34-40. How do the two commandments represent all the laws from the old covenant? (Consider what the laws were meant to do)
7. What does it look like to obey these two commandments? Does obeying these commandments save us? If not, what does?
8. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Thank God for sending his perfect Son to fulfill the law and make righteousness available through his once-and-for-all sacrifice. Thank God for his new covenant, grace-filled and based on faith in Jesus. Ask God to help you understand the greatest commandments and how to live them out in your life.