

Third Sunday of Lent-March 7, 2021

There is a lot to cover in the readings today. In the first reading God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. These commandments are not just for adults; kids can also use these as a guide. Think of them as traffic signs. They guide us on our journey. They **STOP** us from making some wrong choices or guide us to think about choices before we make them.

<i>Exodus 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17</i>	<i>The 10 Commandments</i>
<i>I am the Lord your God; you shall not have other gods before me.</i>	<i>You should think of GOD first, not your video games, phone or other distractions.</i>
<i>You shall not take my name in vain.</i>	<i>The name God should be used in prayer, not in anger or frustration.</i>
<i>Remember that Sunday is the Lord's Day.</i>	<i>You may depend on others to get you to Church, but you are able to pray on your own. You should try to pray everyday, but especially on Sunday.</i>
<i>Honor your father and mother.</i>	<i>Respect your mom and dad and the others who also look out for you. (grandparents, teachers, babysitters)</i>
<i>You shall not kill.</i>	<i>Respect life. Do not bully or hurt others with your words or actions.</i>
<i>You shall not commit adultery.</i>	<i>This is an adult commandment. It means husbands and wives should love and respect each other.</i>
<i>You shall not steal.</i>	<i>Respect the things that belong to others. Never just take something from a friend, a store or your mom's purse.</i>
<i>You shall not lie about others.</i>	<i>Tell the truth. Don't make up stories that are not true because you are mad at someone, or you want to stay out of trouble.</i>
<i>You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.</i>	<i>This is an adult commandment. But in your case, don't be jealous if your friend spends time with others more than you.</i>
<i>You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.</i>	<i>Be satisfied with what you have and don't compare yourself to others.</i>
<i>You shall love God with your whole heart, your</i>	<i>soul, your mind. Love others as you love yourself.</i>

There is a lot to think about in that table. Many of them are rules that you have already been taught. You know that you shouldn't lie or steal. You know that you should be nice to people and you know that you should pray. God sent his son, Jesus, to show us how to follow these commandments/rules. God does not expect us to be perfect, just to try our best.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus acts in a way we don't expect from him. We usually read about Jesus being calm, gentle and loving. Now see what happens.

John 2:13-25

We do not know much about Jesus growing up, but we do know that he was raised in a loving home where he learned about the traditions of the Jewish faith. Going to temple and following traditions were important to Jesus when he began his public ministry. Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem to find a temple there. Jesus became so angry when he saw that the temple had become a marketplace. The temple was not a place to sell animals for sacrifice. Jesus was so angry that he made a whip from cords and began driving the animals and the money changers out of the temple. He overturned tables, spilled out coins and ordered them to take the caged doves out of the temple. Some people asked him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews responded, "This temple has been under construction for 46 years and you will raise it up in 3 days?"

But Jesus was not talking about the temple. He was talking about his body. Jesus wanted his disciples to be ready for his death and resurrection.

This is the third Sunday of Lent. A time for working on becoming a better person. What do you need to make better about yourself? Do you need to be a better listener, a better student, a better helper at home? Maybe there is something else that you can do to become a better person. Choose 1 thing to work on for the next 3 weeks. Write it down if you think you might forget.

Good luck with what you choose to do. Remember that you are loved as you are now and as you hope to be.



Jesus Cleansing the Temple