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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Obeying God's Law Exodus 20:18-26

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson examines and helps us understand that the purpose of God's covenant and **Obeying God's Law** was to help the Israelites and us stay away from sin. The **study's aim** is to sense that God's purpose for any of His commands is to keep His people from sin. The **study's application** is to renew a commitment to give full obedience to God's Word in order to avoid sin.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

As we have been learning in our review of God's covenants, we see again from this text that a covenant with God involves being in relationship with Him. Entering a covenant means establishing a relationship. God's covenant with us gives us the parameters and practices of how to walk with Him in an obedient relationship. It is a high and wonderful privilege to experience this covenant relationship, and there are many more blessings to be found as we walk in it. This text speaks of God coming to His people. A great blessing of our covenant relationship is that of redemption. We notice in Exodus 20 that redemption came before the giving of the Law (vss. 1-2). Our relationship with God must be established before we can truly understand God's law. Obeying God's law, loving God's law, being able to respond in a positive way to God's law—all this comes after redemption. To apply this to us today, our hearts are changed by the Holy Spirit through redemption so that we are able to truly receive the instruction of God and begin to walk in blessed obedience. So first there is the life-changing blessing of redemption, and this leads to an obedient walk with God. The text also stresses the presence of God as it observes that He records His name in the places He chooses to do so. A glorious blessing of being in a covenant relationship with God is experiencing His presence as we walk with Him in obedience. Exodus 20 majors on some of the manifestations of the presence of God (cf. vss. 18-22). God has ways of making Himself known to us! Yes, He can come in the still, small voice, but He can also speak loudly as we are drawn into a covenant relationship with Him. This experience of the presence of God is what humbles our hearts and leads us toward reverentially obeying Him. God's law instructs our humbled hearts on the practical ways we can obediently serve Him. Indeed, the text speaks of the Old Testament people meeting with God around the altar, renewing the sense of His presence through their worship and sacrifices. We experience the blessing of the presence of God as we obediently worship Him. We can see many practical blessings of our covenant with God that result from an obedient walk with Him. Perhaps this is what is meant when God said, "I will bless thee." There are blessings that come from worshipping God free of the idolatries of the human heart. In this we are able to experience His mercy (cf. Exod. 20:6). There are blessings within the command of Sabbath rest (vs. 11) as we learn to follow the Lord and honor Him. There are certainly many practical blessings involved in the command to honor parents (vs. 12). Indeed, we could go on speaking indefinitely of the blessings of obedience to God's law. Redemption brings us into a covenant with God. It changes our hearts, and we willingly embrace the blessed yoke of God's good and godly commands. As we then learn to walk obediently with God in our relationship with Him, many more blessings come! Are we walking in obedience as we should?

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Obedience neither procrastinates nor questions

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
O help us, Lord, to heed Your Word, Its precepts to obey; And give us strength to quench the urge To do things our own way.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
So Samuel said: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

(1 Sam 15:22 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", July 23, 1996)

Series: Covenants with God

UNIT: Called into Covenant with God

NEXT WEEK

God's Covenant with David

(2 Sam 7:1-6, 8-10, 12-16)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Obedience Through Testing (Exodus 20:18-20)

Testing based on the Fear of the Lord (18)

Fear of the Lord to keep His commandments (Eccl 12:13)

Fear of the Lord leads to God fulfilling our desires (Ps 145:19)

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Prov 9:10)

Fear of the Lord leads to the knowledge of God (Prov 2:3-5)

Fear of the Lord is part of God's everlasting covenant (Jer 32:40)

Testing based on God's word (19)

Testing based on God's word for obedience (Gen 22:9-12)

Testing based on God's word to determine true listening (Ex 15:24-27)

Testing based on God's word for humility (Deut 8:2)

Testing based on God's word to determine love for God (Deut 13:3)

Testing so that we don't sin (20)

Not sinning through hiding God's word in heart (Ps 119:11)

Not sinning through God's power (Ps 19:13)

Not sinning through standing firm in the faith (Gal 5:1)

Not sinning through showing proper respect to others (1 Peter 2:16-17)

Not sinning through not giving Satan a foothold (Eph 4:25-27)

Obedience To The Only God (Exodus 20:21-23)

Only God that is approachable (21)

Approachable because God doesn't want anyone to perish, but come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)

Approachable because all are one in Jesus (Gal 3:26-29)

Approachable because of being justified through faith (Rom 5:1-2)

Approachable because there is freedom and confidence in approaching God (Eph 3:12)

Approachable because there is cleansing from sin and guilt (Heb 10:19-22)

Only God who speaks to us (22)

God speaks to us therefore we should listen (1 Sam 3:10)

God speaks to us so we can recognize His voice (1 John 4:6)

God speaks to us so we can find what we need to know (Acts 10:33)

God speaks to us to strengthen (Dan 10:19)

God speaks to us so we can be a doer of His Word (James 1:22)

Only God that should be worshipped (23)

Only God that should be worshipped because of the message from God (Josh 5:13-14)

Only God that should be worshipped not angels (Col 2:18)

Only God that should be worshipped and served (Matt 4:10)

God is the only one to worship as a response of discipleship (1 Cor 3:5-9)

Only God that should be worshipped because He is worthy (Ps 145:3)

Obedience Through Worship (Exodus 20:24-26)

Worship with offerings (24)

Worship with offerings done willingly (2 Cor 8:12)

Worship with offerings that are offered right (Gen 4:2-7)

Worship with offerings that are sacrificial (Phil 4:16-18)

Worship with offerings because of being in the household of God (1 Peter 2:5)

Worship with offerings that are part of being generous (Ps 112:5-6)

Worship with offerings that are given in secret (Matt 6:2-4)

Worship with offerings that provide for disciples (Matt 10:42)

Worship with holiness (25-26)

Worship with reverence (Ps 2:11)

Worship to the Lord in the splendor of His holiness (Ps 29:2)

Worship to bring glory to God's name (Ps 86:9-10)

Worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24)

Worship God with holiness because He is exalted above all (Ps 99:2-3)