



Scripture nugget – Filial and loving obedience is solid proof of our love for God

If ye love Me, keep My commandments (John 14:15) (KJV).

God's Commandments is His blueprint for us to walk in the true path, away from the slavery of sin. The Ten Commandments was the basis of the covenant God established with Moses who represented the people of God after their escape from Egypt, the land of their slavery. The Ten Commandments are also called the Decalogue or the Ten Words in the Bible. After delivering the Israelites from bodily slavery to the Egyptians, God, out of love, wanted to give them a code of conduct to protect them from falling into sin and worshipping false gods - the spiritual slavery to sin which is worse than bodily enslavement. Moses was summoned to meet God on Mount Sinai for the reception of the Ten Commandments. Before he met with God, Moses consecrated the Israelites who purified themselves for this important event. On the third day of the third month after they left Egypt, God, from the top of Mount Sinai, spoke the words of the Ten Commandments to the Israelites who gathered at the foot of the mountain, amid fire and intense smoke from the mountain which trembled violently. The Ten Commandments and its nuances are even more important to us today as we face many more greater temptations in our contemporary godless world. For instance, we may not worship carved idols but false hidden gods in the form of money, worldly goods, sensual pleasures, ego and pride, etc. are even more dangerous for souls because they are not acknowledged. Our Catechism tells us that "they are fundamentally immutable, and they oblige always and everywhere. No one can dispense from them. The Ten Commandments are engraved by God in the human heart." (CCC 2072). Thus, the Ten Commandments are absolute and cannot be changed to suit any person or situation. However, God's mercy for the truly repentant is unlimited. Our care is to avoid the attitude of legalism which forgets the spirit behind the law, and to guard against moral relativism which tries to pacify the human ego and situation. Moral relativism is highly popular in our confused world where political correctness not truth is important but has no place in God's commandments. God is just but merciful to the repentant.

Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets (Matthew 22:36-40). In giving this commandment of love, Jesus sums up the Ten Commandments, the first three inscribed on the first stone tablet deal with our relationship with God, and the rest inscribed on the second stone tablet deal with our relationship with others. To be disciples of Christ, our relationships must be based on the foundation of love of God above all else, and love of others for the sake of God.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, teach me to love Your commandments and precepts because they lead me on the true path to eternal life where true gladness never ends. Your grace is available to me to fulfill any of Your commandments. You Yourself said that Your food is to do the will of God the Father and to complete His work (cf. John 4:34). You live to do God's will and are obedient to Him unto death on the Cross. Divine Master, help and empower me to walk in Your footsteps. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.