Chapter 20: Love Fulfills the Law

**□ The Invitation**: Invite the Holy Spirit to show you something new as you read through the chapter. The Father desires to meet with you and share something with you today. You may find it in the reading or you may hear His Voice speaking to Your Spirit in the quiet of this moment.

**□ The Reading:** Read Exodus Chapter 20. Record any thoughts from the chapter, questions you have or verses that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you while reading.

**□ The Focus**: Today’s focus is a reflection.

Exodus 20 is the telling of the Ten Commandments. God is calling the nation of Israel to remember how He demonstrated His love for them and how by His might and power He delivered them. He is inviting them to trust Him and to look to no other source for help! The exodus was a sign for Israel that God is for them and He will take care of them if they will trust Him. It points to God’s willingness to be involved with Israel now and in their future. The exodus was the foundation of Israel’s faith.

The law of Moses simply spells out the way Israel will live if they truly feel their future is secure in God. If you genuinely trust God with your life and believe Him for your future, you will not steal, murder, lie, covet, etc. All these sins come from not believing God to take care of you.

These laws are the explanations of how to keep covenant with God. God’s heart is seen in these laws. Love is its aim! Every commandment is relational, how to relate to God and how to relate to others. When asked which commandment was the most important one, Jesus responded, “*The most important one is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these*,” Mark 12:29-31. Love fulfils the law.

Paul echoes the words of Jesus in Romans 13:8-10, “*Owe no one anything except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. The commandments, You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet and any other commandment are summed up in this sentence, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law*”.

David describes his love for God’s laws in Psalm 119. This is the longest chapter in the Bible, 176 verses. Over and over throughout this chapter, David speaks of God’s laws and how David delights in them. “*Oh how I love Your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands are with me and make me wiser than my enemies. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on Your statutes*....” Psalm 119:97-99. Grow in love with God’s laws and decrees by meditating on them.

The law is fulfilled when we love God and our neighbor. We cannot muster up love in our flesh. Love is a fruit of the Spirit, meaning it is something we cannot produce without God’s Spirit enabling. God is love, so love is from Him. Your heart, in faith, united with God’s heart of true love. Genuine love leads to greater work. Lovers always work harder than workers. Show me someone in love and they will do whatever it takes for the object of their affection. A worker will do what is required of him. There are many who “work” for God who are not doing it out of love, but of duty or obligation or religious practice. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 says this, “*If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don’t have love, I’m nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God’s Word with power, revealing all His mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, ‘Jump’ and it jumps, but I don’t love, I’m nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don’t love, I’ve gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do,* ***I’m bankrupt without love***” (Message).

Reflection: Love fulfills the law.

“*Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.” Mark 12: 30-31.*

What does love look like when you love the Lord with all your heart? Soul? Mind? Strength?

What does love look like when you love your neighbor?