

You Can Look, But Don't Touch

2 Samuel 6:1-11

SETTING THE SCENE:

3 RULES FOR A PARADE:

Rule #1 – Carry the **Ark**.
Exodus 25:10-16

Rule #2 – Kohathites **only**.
Numbers 4:15

Rule #3 – Don't **touch**.
Numbers 4:15

TAKING IT HOME:

- ▶ Compromise always **kills the parade**.
Romans 5:3-5

- ▶ Great **intentions** can't make up for clear **disobedience**.
1 Samuel 15:22

- ▶ If God **says it**, He **means it**.
Isaiah 59:2-3, Romans 6:22-23, Galatians 6:7-8, Deuteronomy 31:8, 2 Peter 1:3-4

Food for Thought

For the week of August 9, 2009

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. This week we saw how good intentions can't make up for ignoring God's clear instructions in our life. Jesus addresses a similar issue in the "Sermon on the Mount" by helping His listeners realize how their intention to follow the law might be missing the heart and law of God. As you read each passage below, write what they were doing "right," followed by what they were missing:

Matthew 5:21-24

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' [22] But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

[23] "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, [24] leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. [NIV]

Matthew 5:27-28

"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' [28] But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. [NIV]

Matthew 5:31-32

"It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' [32] But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery. [NIV]

Matthew 5:33-37

"Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' [34] But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; [35] or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. [36] And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. [37] Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. [NIV]

Matthew 5:38-42

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' [39] But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. [40] And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. [41] If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. [42] Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. [NIV]

Matthew 5:43-47

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' [44] But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. [46] If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? [47] And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? [NIV]

Looking back at what you wrote above, are there areas where your good intentions or partial obedience may be keeping you from looking at how God really wants you to live?

2. In the book of Acts, we find the early church thriving and growing in spite of significant persecution and challenges. God was moving and lives were being changed – the mood was up and “parade” like. And then it happened – compromise! As you read the story of compromise in Acts 5:1-10, identify the thoughts and intentions that brought this couple to such a devastating end.

Acts 5:1-10

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. [2] With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

[3] Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? [4] Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

[5] When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. [6] Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

[7] About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. [8] Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

[9] Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

[10] At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. [NIV]

Have you ever found yourself making excuses for compromise? Is there anything you need to change or someone you need to talk to about this?

3. It is because of God's goodness and love for us that we can have confidence in obeying God and trusting Him, even when obedience is difficult. Read Psalm 100. What are some specific ways that God has been good to you personally?

Psalm 100:1-5

A psalm. For giving thanks.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

[2] Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

[3] Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

[4] Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

[5] For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations. [NIV]