

283.1: Law and Ritual (OT Gospel Doctrine Lesson 14, Updated)

"Ye Shall Be a Peculiar Treasure unto Me"

Seems like a boring topic, but it is vital. (One of my very favorite topics... how do we know what is right, and how do we structure our lives so that we increase our ability to do it? I want to dedicate my life to these questions)

Productive Sunday School

- I. Review the reading
- II. What do the 10 commandments mean in our lives?
- III. Holiness in the Old Testament
- IV. How do we know what is right?
- V. How do we do what is right?
- VI. Conclusion: Becoming our best selves through obedience and ritual

Productive Sunday School

Review the reading

Class Member Reading: [Exodus 15](#) Hymn to the God of Israel, passage about keeping commandments

[16](#) Manna, double manna before the Sabbath

[17](#) water from the rock; Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands during the battle against Amalek

[18](#) Jethro (priest of Midian Moses' father in law) teaches delegation

[19](#) Israel prepares themselves and go to Mount Sinai, thunder, lightning, clouds at top of mountain

[20](#) 10 commandments (compare to Deuteronomy 5)

[32](#) Golden calf, Moses breaks tablets, sons of Levi kill 3000 Israelites

[33](#) Israel leaves Sinai; tabernacle is set up; Moses intercedes for the people

[34](#) Very comforting chapter. God commands Moses to make new tablets, emphasizes his steadfast, covenantal love, God renews covenant with the people; Moses' face shines

[JST Deut. 10:2](#) God writes on the tablets what was in the first, kept in the ark of the covenant

[John 6:35, 48-51](#) Jesus is the bread of life (Jesus is the manna from heaven)

[Galatians 3:23-24](#) Law was the schoolmaster/tutor to bring us to Christ

[Mosiah 13:29-30](#) Israelites given a strict law (explain Jewish vs. Christian interpretation of law)

[Alma 25:15-16](#) Nephites kept the Law of Moses looking forward to its fulfillment in Christ

[Alma 34:14-15](#) law points toward Christ

[3 Nephi 15:4-10](#) Jesus fulfills the law

[D&C 84:19-27](#) God took "higher priesthood" away from children of Israel

Additional Reading: [Psalm 78](#) children of Israel as "stubborn and rebellious"; reference to God's care for them in the wilderness

[1 Corinthians 10:1-11](#) Stories of children of Israel were examples, keep commandments

What do the 10 commandments mean in our lives?

Reviewing the 10 Commandments:

- I. No other gods (priorities)
- II. No idolatry (follow what is authentic, no counterfeits)
- III. Don't take God's name in vain (not so much about the way we use the word, but it is about keeping our own word and covenants, follow through with what we say we will do and value)
- IV. Keep the Sabbath day holy (respect sacred time, take time to connect to the sacred)
- V. Honor father and mother (respect relationships, family)
- VI. Don't murder (respect life)
- VII. Don't commit adultery (respect relationships and sacredness of sex, fidelity)
- VIII. Don't steal (work for what we get, be honest)
- IX. Don't bear false witness (be honest, but also be respectful of peoples' reputations and good name)
- X. Do not covet (Be content with what you have rather than obsessing about what you don't)

Holiness in the Old Testament (concentric circles of holiness, alignment with creation and God's will, then the interpretations of the prophets (), Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, and Jesus)

Jeremiah 7: ²¹Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the flesh. ²²For in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to your fathers or command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. ²³But this command I gave them: 'Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.'

Matthew 9:13/Hosea 6:6 "Go and learn what this means; I desire mercy, not sacrifice"

How do we know what is right?

Morality and ethics (morality is a system of right and wrong, but no system of morality is perfect... ethics is the science and art of knowing what is right and wrong. The magical word is *defensibility* Something is right if it is defensible to our best selves and all of those impacted by a particular course of action (this is why it is a good thought exercise to imagine explaining our potential behavior to our parents, or a religious leader, or best friend, or our boss, etc).

What is "righteousness"? (alignment) The goal is not to get to a point where we won't sin, not exactly. The goal is to enter into proper relationship and alignment with our best selves, with God, with the principles of the Gospel. If we are aligned with these principles, and humbly realize we will always fall short no matter what we do, we will be repentant and forgiving and gracious and open and will thus become the type of beings that God can use and transform.

a.

How do we do what is right? (Ritual, note how often in the scriptures people are commanded to do certain things in order to remember God, remember what is right)

Practice* and training. It is not enough to know and understand; we practice doing what is right in a variety of situations, especially when it is hard, and doing right becomes easier. We become more able, living the gospel transforms us. (as Ralph Waldo Emerson said, **"That which we persist in doing becomes easier to do, not that the nature of the thing has changed but that our power to do has increased.")*

Hold ourselves accountable (honestly check in with how we are doing, admit when we fall short, cultivate unflinching honesty)

Remind ourselves of our values (This is why it helps to put commandments or principles into our own words, discuss how they apply to our own lives, etc)

Your own "Spiritual Training Regimen"

What book(s) most inspire you to be your best self?

What music most inspires you?

Where do you feel closest to God and your best self?

What is your personal "sacrament" (What do you drink mindfully)?

What are your most important personal commandments?

Who is your moral hero and example?

Put ourselves in circumstances where we are accountable (Bring up adaptive value of religious ritual, status, friends we can check in with)

II. Conclusion: Becoming our best selves through obedience and ritual

283.2: Law and Ritual (OT Gospel Doctrine Lesson 14, Sunday School)

[“Ye Shall Be a Peculiar Treasure unto Me”](#)

Though the 10 Commandments are arguably the most well-known legislation in the history of the Western World, the Jewish Law which they preface has prompted more confusion. This episode puts the Jewish Law in the context of the sacred. We introduce context and concepts behind the Law, discuss how ritual creates sacred space and time, and explore how these elements can enable us to keep the divine in our daily lives.

283.3: Law and Ritual (OT Gospel Doctrine Lesson 14, Study Notes)

[“Ye Shall Be a Peculiar Treasure unto Me”](#)

This portion of the episode continues our exploration of the two parts of the Jewish Law: Ritual and morality. We cover

- Puzzling passages including the golden calf and slaughter by the Levites
- the centrality of the Jewish Law
- Importance and role of ritual in our lives
- How we know what is right
- Ideas of right and wrong