

4. Why is holding tightly to grace so important for living obediently to God?

5. Why is it so hard to practice the rhythm of joyful obedience outlined in the sermon?

6. Reflect on the Jonty Allcock quote from the outline.

Resources:

- [Impossible Commands: How to Obey God When It Seems That You Can't](#) by Jonty Allcock.
- The Bible Project Podcast (not the videos), How to Read the Bible Series, five episodes on Law beginning April 29, 2019.
- [The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith](#) by Tim Keller

Good & Beautiful Life (The Sermon on the Mount) - Part 6

“How Can I Obey Jesus When Jesus Commands the Impossible?” (Part 2)

Matthew 5:19-48

Leviticus 11: 44 I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy.

How Can I Obey Jesus When Jesus Commands the Impossible?

1. Love God's commands.

You really won't keep commands and commandments at the heart level Jesus is talking about unless you love his commands.

We can begin to love God's commands if we know how God's laws and commands work. We need to understand the nature of God's commands.

What do I need to know about God's commands in order to love them?

- God's individual commands are often accommodations of his ideals to our brokenness. (Matthew 19:8)
- God's commands are based on his _____.

Jesus didn't go back to a commandment in Matthew 19, per se, when he wanted to explain marriage, divorce, and remarriage. He went back to the way things are supposed to be as reflected in Genesis 1-2, in _____, before the separation and fall that happen in Genesis 3.

From Genesis 3 to the middle of Exodus, God relates to people without giving them a set of _____.

- God's ideals reflect his good and beautiful _____.
- God commands because he wants what's _____ for us (i.e., he commands because he loves).
The good and beautiful God _____ us how to have a good and beautiful life.

- A day is coming when there will be no more _____ to accommodate our brokenness.
God's kingdom rule is already here but not _____ come in fullness.

If we see God's ideals and imagine the _____ of what will be, we can start not only loving the commands, we can start living by God's ideals here and now. We can live what we pray—"your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Case Study on Deuteronomy 21:14

In this obvious accommodation of God's ideal to our brokenness, the seeds of human rights were being _____.

2. Hold tightly to God's _____.

- Grace is not the ABC's of faith. Grace is the _____.
- It's only by God's grace and through faith that we are _____ righteous before God.
- Grace doesn't _____ the call to obedience.
- It's only by living his grace—knowing we are loved and accepted by God through Christ—that obedience will take hold in our _____.

3. Practice the _____ of joyful obedience.

- Be honest and _____ you can't keep be joyfully obedient. ("I can't.")
- Confess your sin. ("I'm _____.")
- Ask for _____. ("Please help.")
- Take a first, often small, _____ of obedience. ("Let's go.")

"Your heavenly Father stands behind you and says, 'Fight as hard as you can.' Then he swings his mighty arm and, together, we smack sin far into the distance. But you will often fail. You will even fail to fight. Sometimes you will fail to trust your Father. But other times you will swing and win. There is a confidence, even a defiance, in this sort of obedience. Sin will not rule over you. Sin will not ultimately defeat you. As you work, God works. As you fight, he fights. As you win, he wins. Here is gospel-driven, joyful obedience." (Jonty Allcock, slightly adapted)

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read Matthew 5:19-48. Reflect on the idea that we are no more able to keep the commands in this passage than dead Lazarus was able to obey Jesus' command, "Lazarus, get up."
3. Reflect on the idea that if we see God's ideals and imagine the beauty of what will be, we can start not only loving the commands, we can start living by God's ideals here and now.