



St. Matthew's Cathedral eNews

Christ + Compassion + Community

From the Dean

The Ten Commandments and the Heart of God

Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God . . . You shall not . . . —Exodus 20:1,2

On "Yahoo Answers" someone asked the question: "Are the Ten Commandments Out of Date?" What do you think? Here are some of the responses:

- "Absolutely!"
- " Only three have any relevance for a sane society."
- "i am not religious, but if people would follow them, the world would be a better place."
- "They do need a good rewriting."
- "They went off centuries ago."

The Ten Commandments are not simply laws to be kept but windows that show us the heart of God. God gave the Ten Commandments—as well as all of the others—to the Israelites, not as a set of rules to keep so that God would love them, or choose them. God had already chosen them as his people. He gave them to his people to show them what he, God, was like. And he wanted his people to live a life after his own heart.

The Gospels tell a story of a rich young man who came up to Jesus and asked what he should do to inherit eternal life. Jesus told him to keep the commandments. The young man told him he had kept all of them since he was young.

Jesus then told him to sell everything and give it to the poor and then come and follow him (Jesus).

Jesus was trying to show the young man the heart of God that can be seen through the commandments but can't be fully captured by keeping "the letter of the law."

