



LESSON.—SUNDAY, JULY 21, 1907.

## The Ten Commandments— Duties Toward Men.

Exodus xx., 12-17. Memory verse, 12-17.  
Read Ex. xx., xxiv.

### Golden Text.

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.—  
Lev. xix., 18.

### Home Readings

Monday, July 15.—Ex. xx., 12-23.  
Tuesday, July 16.—Deut. v., 16-33.  
Wednesday, July 17.—Matt. v., 17-26, 33-42.  
Thursday, July 18.—Eph. vi., 1-18.  
Friday, July 19.—Ps. cxix., 33-48.  
Saturday, July 20.—Ps. cxix., 97-112.  
Sunday, July 21.—Ex. xxiv., 1-18.

### FOR THE JUNIOR CLASSES.

Who can remember some of the commandments we learned last Sunday? There was that one about worshipping God only, then about not making an idol to take the place of God, then about remembering God's name always with respect, and lastly we studied about how we should keep the Sabbath, God's day of rest for us, when we should more particularly think of and worship God. These were our duties to God, but they would not be sufficient, indeed, we could not really keep them unless we remember that we have other duties also. Would God be pleased to have us shut ourselves up away from other people, and spend our whole time trying just to keep these first commandments? No. He has placed us in a world among other people, and wants us to live there, and be his true followers all the same, so he gave us a set of rules or helps, to guide us in our dealings with other people.

Recall to the children the time and place, and the people to whom God was speaking first of all in these commandments. Teach them as Christ did in the sermon on the Mount, that it is not only the actual deed that God considers, but the thought that lies in the heart. We may not actually do such wicked things as killing, stealing, or lying as we think of them, but many a clenched fist, and tight set little mouth, yes even the angry words themselves, have said, 'I wish you were dead! I hate you!' and Christ says that such black feelings of hate are like killing; and, indeed, if they are not torn up by the roots when they grow in little hearts they will go on getting bigger and bigger, till they choke and kill the good thoughts in the grown up hearts. The poison ivy is just as much poison ivy when it pokes its first little leaves above ground, as when it grows far and wide, and so is this sin just as much this sin when it first is allowed to grow, as when it gets strong enough to kill another person. It is the same with the other sins God forbids.

### FOR THE SENIORS.

There is little in this lesson that can make it other than a straight talk between the teacher and his scholars. The commandments apply just as much to the world to-day as they ever did. Society can never outgrow them. The people to whom they were first addressed may have seen in them a greater novelty than we see, as they had been a nation of slaves. It has always been true that a slave makes the hardest tyrant. He has been brought up in the law of might is right, and obtaining power exercises the only right he has learnt. God would save his people from this at the outset. They had been accustomed to see human life taken with the utmost callousness, they must have suffered from all the vices consequent on slavery, and doubtless had often yielded to the temptation to curry favor with their masters by mak-

ing false statements. God would uproot these evils at once. Yet have these commands no less an application to us in spite of the fact that we feel sure our acts will never lead to murder or what the world calls theft. God does not say, 'Thou shalt not steal anything of great value'; it is simply, 'Thou shalt not steal.' The boy who looks out of the window in assumed carelessness when the conductor makes his round of the street car, to avoid the payment of his fare, is a thief, only with this difference, that he has sold his honesty for a few paltry cents instead of a large amount. By-and-bye, if he follows the road on which he has entered, he will get the courage to make the larger plunge. After all the specific warnings against the actual sins, God, unless they should find anywhere a loophole of escape into sin, includes the very thoughts of wrong desire, the small springs of these wrongs, all in the wide-reaching power of the last commandments.

### SELECTIONS FROM TARBELL'S 'GUIDE.'

It is a remarkable fact that China, whose government has been longer established than any other now existing, is founded on the basis of this commandment. 'Filial piety,' says Professor Douglas, 'is the leading principle in Chinese ethics. It is the point upon which every teacher from Confucius downwards, has most strongly insisted, and its almost universal practice affords grounds for the belief held by some that in the long continuance of the empire the Chinese are reaping the reward held out in the fifth commandment of the Mosaic Decalogue.' But the trouble with China is that it recognizes only one commandment in the Decalogue, and misses the gain of keeping other commandments.—H. Clay Trumbull, in 'Studies in Oriental Social Life.'

'You need not break the glasses of a telescope, or coat them over with paint in order to prevent you from seeing through them,' says Henry Ward Beecher. 'Just breathe upon them, and the dew of your breath will shut out all the stars. So it does not require great crimes to hide the light of God's countenance. Little faults can do it just as well. Take a shield and cast a spear upon it, and it will leave in it one great dent. Prick it all over with a million little needle shafts, and they will take the polish from it far more than the piercing of the spear. So it is not so much the great sins which take the freshness from our consciences, as the numberless petty faults which we are all the time committing.'

Boys flying kites haul in their white winged birds,  
But you can't do that when you're flying words,  
Thoughts unexpressed may sometimes drop  
back dead,  
But God Himself can't kill them when they're  
said.—Carleton.

Remember that charity thinketh no evil, much less repeats it. There are two good rules which ought to be written on every heart; never believe anything bad about anybody unless you positively know it is true, never tell even that unless you feel that it is absolutely necessary, and that God is listening while you tell it.—Henry van Dyke.

When you hear an ill report about any one, halve and quarter it, and then say nothing about the rest.—Spurgeon.

### FROM PELOUBET'S 'NOTES.'

Individually even, the boy who loves and honors his parents will, as a rule, be more prosperous, be in all respects more happy, be more blessed than the bad son. A distinguished officer in the army told me that his experience in a long life had been exactly the same as that of an old admiral, who said that of all the midshipmen who had passed under his rule he had never known one fail to turn out well who wrote weekly his loving letters to his home. But the main intention of the promise was national, and all history has confirmed its national fulfilment. "The cornerstone of the commonwealth," it has been said, "is the hearthstone." Why was one Spartan worth ten other Greeks in a battle? It was because Spartan boys were trained in parental obedience.—F. W. Farrar.

It is not only against the sneaking or the murderous thief, but against all who plunder others, even by means ostensibly legal; it is

against all usurers, cheats, extortioners, foul dealers in bargains and contracts; it is against all who by their deceits, chicaneries, and swindlings sin against the rights of their neighbors, that the eighth commandment is directed. "Will a man rob God? yet ye rob me. But we say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with the curse, for ye rob me, even the whole nation." So writes the last of the Old Testament prophets.—Farrar.

'Show me a people where trade is dishonest; and I will show you a people where religion is a sham.'—Froude, 'Short Studies, i., 123.'

### BIBLE REFERENCES.

Matt. v., 19; Rom. xiii., 10; Prov. xix., 5; Jas. iv., 11; Eph., iv., 28; Psa. cxli., 3; Luke xii., 15; Gen. ix., 6.

### C. E. Topic.

Sunday, July 21.—Topic—Present day applications of the last six Commandments. Ex. xx., 12-17.

### Junior C. E. Topic.

#### CALLED OF GOD.

Monday, July 15.—Jeremiah's call. Jer. i., 1-3.

Tuesday, July 16.—His commission. Jer. vii., 1-7.

Wednesday, July 17.—How he was received. Jer. xx., 8-13.

Thursday, July 18.—Our holy calling. II. Tim. i., 9.

Friday, July 19.—Called to fellowship. I. Cor. i., 9.

Saturday, July 20.—Called to be saints. I. Cor., i., 2.

Sunday, July 21.—Topic—God's call to Jeremiah, and to us. Jer. i., 6-10.

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A Jack Knife. A Fountain Pen.  
A Watch and Chain. A Camera.

Boys at summer resorts and elsewhere may have gifts for themselves and their sisters without giving a cent of their money for them.

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