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# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### God's Top Ten Series, Lesson 43

**Lesson Title:** Ten Commandments – Conclusion

**Take Home Point:** Keep the Commandments – it's good for God and it's good for us.

#### Warm-Up:

After two long years, my son recently had his braces removed. It was quite an occasion for him. As you may know, after the removal of braces, my son must still wear a retainer at least when he sleeps. Why? It's good for him. It helps keep his teeth in place as the bone around them grows back. Does he always do it? No. Why not, since he knows it's good for him?

My oldest daughter began smoking cigarettes in high school. She is now an adult, but continues to smoke. Why? It's not good for her. It's a habit that injures her health. Does she want to stop? Oh, yes. So why does she continue to smoke, since she knows it's not good for her?

Both of these wonderful young people, whom I love very much and who love me, know what is the smart and right thing to do. But sometimes knowing is not enough.

**Read:** Matthew 22:34-40

#### Observation (What happened?):

Why did the Pharisees ask Jesus about the greatest commandment?

According to Jesus, who are we to love?

#### Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind?

Why do you think God gave us so many other laws through prophetic speakers if these two commandments summed up everything?

#### Insight:

Jesus didn't speak these words because he was demanding the impossible. His response to the Pharisees in Matthew 22 is no more difficult to live out than his sermon in Matthew 5-7. There he was simply describing in concrete action how much our loving God wants us to love him and love others. Can we do that on our own? Oh, no. How much we need God's unlimited grace and mercy to love him and keep his ways! But it is ours! See what John says in his first letter: *"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!...God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him... We love because he first loved us... This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,"* (NIV) Jesus himself tells us in Matthew 11:29-30: *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* (NIV) How wonderful it is to reflect on God's great provision!

#### Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you show God that you love him with all your being?

What do you think others would say if told this is what you believe and how you live?