



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God is Our Rescuer Series, Lesson 8

Lesson Title: What Rescued People Do

Take Home Point: God shows us the best path to follow – the Ten Commandments.

Warm-Up:

A friend of mine suffered a heart attack several years ago. It was not fatal, in part because of the prompt response and excellent care of medical professionals. During his recovery, my friend was given a list of “commandments” for healthier living involving diet, exercise, work habits, etc. He has been extremely careful in following these instructions; one might say he follows them religiously! Those who were his rescuers demonstrated their ability to help him, and he trusts the directions they gave to avoid, as much as possible, the future need for rescue.

Read: Exodus 19-20

Observation (What happened?):

Which of the Ten Commandments direct what a person should do instead of what a person should not do?

What was the response of the Israelites to the presence of God?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did God give the Ten Commandments?

What did God want to teach through his commandments?

Insight:

Why do we find it difficult to obey instructions we are given? Things like road detours, test instructions, directions for assembly, work processes – these are generally provided to help us succeed in what we are attempting to do. Usually we recognize the value of directions and are willing to comply. So when we don't, why not? Sometimes because we think we have a better way, or we don't want to take the time to comprehend and go by the instructions given. But to be honest, sometimes it's just because we are not going to let someone tell us what to do or how to do it! Simply put, it is our desire to be our own authority. More than the occasional failure, it will bring spiritual death unless it is overcome. Read Romans Chapter 7. In his own words, Paul is ruthlessly honest about this in his own life: “Although I have the desire to do what is right, I don't do it.” (Romans 7:18). Thankfully, he also supplies God's answer in 7:25: “I thank God that our Lord Jesus Christ rescues me!”

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you respond when you break one of God's commands? How does God want you to respond?

Thank Jesus right now for the power to live a life pleasing to God.