

Exodus 20: 1-7

Matthew 13: 18-23

Why did God give Moses the Ten Commandments? Basically, because the Jews were an, 'Unruly people.' God's earlier Covenant with Abraham was a promise by Him to always look after the people of Israel. In return they were to follow His ways and worship Him alone. But now, as at other times before and after the time of Moses, and despite many signs and wonders, the people lost their way. The Ten Commandments were to mark a reinstatement of the Covenant. A blueprint for the people of Israel to follow. We might call it an instruction manual for life.

When Jesus came, he gave us a New Covenant. His life and Word were to be seen as a new blueprint for us to follow. A New Testament of Love. In return, we are asked to love him by reading and living out the instructions from this New Testament. Put simply: To love Him in his Father and to love others as he loved, and loves, us.

The Old Testament is often seen as negative. Prohibitive in nature. But if we read it and interpret it in conjunction with the life and message of Love, as revealed in the New Testament, it is complementary in every way. Each Commandment contributes to the message of love. Eg, "Thou shall not kill." How many of us kill the spirit of another when we speak badly of them?

So, Jesus, in the Gospel, asks us to Listen. To be Rich soil in receiving his Word in scripture. For, "The one who hears the Word and understands it: he is the one who yields a harvest and produces, now a hundred fold, now sixty, now thirty.