

"The Ten Commandments"



I hope you are enjoying going through them this year – **taking a closer look** at one each month, when we met together for our monthly Central/West Auckland Joy Ministries service.

How are you getting on remembering them, and **which NUMBER** goes with **which COMMANDMENT**?

Maybe there is a fun way to remember them – a song, a poem, actions, a story perhaps?

Did you notice that?

That these **"Ten Commandments"** can be divided into 2 groups – our relationship with **GOD** – and our relationship with **MAN [People]**.

Our relationship with **God** is up-and-down [**vertical**], and our relationship with **Man [People]** is side-to-side [**horizontal**]. And the 2 together form the shape of a **Cross**.

Jesus summed up **"The Ten Commandments"** in the same way, didn't He, in **Matthew 22:37-40**, when He was asked in v.36, **"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"** He replied:>



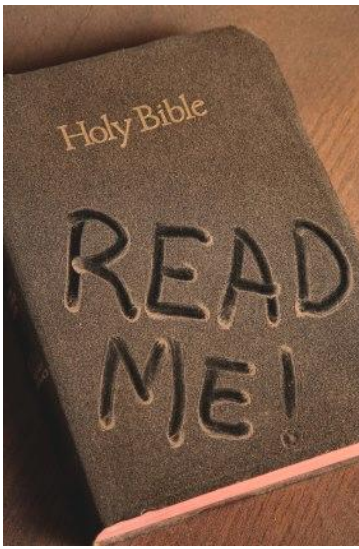
Do you remember what it was that **Jan Bridgeman** spoke about in our September service? It was **Commandment #8**, wasn't it, **"Do not Steal"**. We'll never forget it – as someone dressed up as a robber stole Jan's handbag, and ran off with it.

We can get used to stealing – such as:

- Taking a piece of fruit without paying for it
 - Eating a block of chocolate in the fridge that's not ours
 - Not giving back someone's pen after borrowing it
 - Turning up late for work
 - Taking extra time for our lunch break
 - Being on Facebook during work time when we are on the computer [unless it's part of our job]
- God calls all of these **Stealing**.



But then Jan made it really personal – bringing it back to **Commandment #1 [God wants to be #1 in our lives]** – not giving God the best of our day [praying, and thanking Him, and reading the Bible early in the morning], or failing to meet with His people, and keeping the Good News of the Gospel to ourselves. **LET'S SEE HOW TO.**



No.1: READ THE BIBLE REGULARLY

- Do we have a Bible?
- Do we take our Bible off the bookshelf, where it might have been gathering dust, and open it?
- "Which Bible do I choose?"

GREAT ADVICE from **Aaron Ironside**, the announcer on the Breakfast Show on Radio Rhema [1251AM], and a Pastor:

Look up a Passage in the Bible that you are familiar with/know well – in several Translations – find one in which **God** **"speaks" to you**, and start using that one.



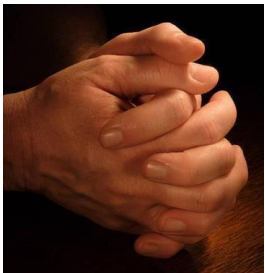
It is God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, speaking to us.



- "How much of the Bible do I read?"
- **How hungry are you?**
- It's more than just "eating" God's Word, but allowing it to "speak to our hearts" – **praying** about what we have just read – **meditating/ thinking/ mulling over** what we have read – and **letting it change our lives**.

- For example Mary the mother of Jesus, in Luke 2:19, **"But Mary TREASURED UP all these things and PONDERED THEM [thought about them] in her heart."**

It doesn't matter how much – or how little – we read of the Bible, but that we read it regularly. Do you remember the Israelites gathering **Manna** in the wilderness [**Exodus 16:4-36**]? The Bible records that some gathered much, and some gathered little – but each had enough [**Exodus 16:17**]. Interesting, eh.



No.2: PRAY – Do we know how to?

Jesus' disciples, in desperation, asked Jesus, **"Lord, teach us to pray."** [Luke 11:1]. Jesus said to them, "Pray like this".

He then gave them what we call "The Lord's prayer" – but it's really "The disciples' prayer" [see **Matthew 6:9-13**]

("The Lord's prayer" – Jesus' prayer of interceding for us – is recorded in **John 17**).

Mark records, **'Very early in the morning...Jesus got up...and...prayed'** (Mark 1:35 NIV). Jesus made deposits each morning so that He could make withdrawals throughout the day. Many of us don't, and it shows! [from [Prayer \(1\)](#)]

No.3: MEET TOGETHER REGULARLY FOR FELLOWSHIP, TO ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER, AND FOR COMMUNION

Acts 2:42, **"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."** [See also **Hebrews 10:24-25**].

No.4: REACH OUT TO OTHERS – ESPECIALLY TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

See "The Great Commission" [**Matthew 28:18-20**].

