

# Catechesis Minute: The Close of the Commandments

*What does God say about all These Commandments?* He says: I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments (Exodus 20:5-6).

*What does this mean?* God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

Can you say the Ten Commandments with me? Maybe the adults can help.

1. You shall have no other gods.
2. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
3. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not murder.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or his donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

How important is it that we keep these commandments? Is it okay to keep some of the commandments? Can we get by with doing just exactly what they say? For example: the Fifth Commandment says, "You shall not murder." Does that mean we keep that commandment if we don't kill anyone? No. Remember, hurting someone or even hating someone breaks that commandment. According to the **Catechism**, what will God do if we break any of these commandments? He will punish us. How will He do that? Let me tell you what happened to Jerusalem because of Israel's sin.

God let King Nebuchadnezzar conquer and capture Jerusalem. When he did, he killed many of the people with the sword. He burned the house of God and the palace and destroyed the city walls. He took many people back to Babylon as prisoners to be slaves. And he took the treasures from the palace and temple (See **2 Chronicles 36:17–21**).

But what will happen to us? Jesus says in **Matthew 22** that we'll be *thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth* (**Matthew 22:13**). Sounds bad, doesn't it?

But it doesn't have to be like that. Even though we can't keep the Ten Commandments and deserve to die, God loves us and sent His Son Jesus to die in our place. And Jesus says if we believe in Him, we will live forever with God.

*Prayer:*

*Lord, You have given us Your Law to show us how to live. Because of our sin nature, we can't keep it. Thank You for sending Your Son to die in our place. Help us to believe in Him and follow Him so we can live with You. Amen.*