

January 13, 2019



Exodus 20:1-3

### **SERMON SUMMARY**

<sup>1</sup>And God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

<sup>3</sup>“You shall have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20:1-3

### **The Ten Commandments**

- The Ten are for a people **set** free to **live** free
  - The Lord brought His people out of slavery in Egypt, to live in a land He gave them as a free people
  - The Ten are for a people who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus. We can't enforce those who aren't saved to live by The Ten; they are not a people set free from their slavery to sin.
  - The Ten are meant to enrich us, not enslave us
  - The Ten are given as a response to salvation, not requirement for salvation
- The Ten **reveal** the heart of God
  - God makes these commands or rules to protect us, and because He knows what is the best way to live
  - If the law is disconnected from the law-giver, there is a great misunderstanding of the heart of the law
  - The Ten show who God is!
- The Ten reveal our **hearts** but cannot save us
  - The Ten reveal where we fall short and remind us that we are basically bad (Romans 3:23)

January 13, 2019

- Through the law cannot achieve righteousness for us. If that were the case, Jesus didn't need to die for our sin! Righteousness is only found in Jesus (Galatians 3:21)
- The Ten cannot give us a **righteous** desire
  - Only the Holy Spirit can change our hearts so we want to live according to The Ten
- **Summary:** The 10 Commandments need to be kept by the right people for the right reasons

### **God and God Alone**

*Commandment #1: You shall have no other gods before me.*

- God is to be worshipped **alone**, as the only God, to the **exclusion** of all others
  - Ultimately, our worth, security, and fulfillment are found only in Him. Nothing else gets to compete with God for the throne of your heart.
  - Syncretism: to worship God and others ("God and \_\_\_")—this isn't a possibility
  - This commandment reminds us: God has always desired all of me
- You cannot be free until you are free of **idols**
  - We have "heart idols" (ex. success, money, approval, sports, relationships, power, work, control, etc)
  - Idols are good things God gives us, that we make God-things, and then they become bad things
  - **What controls our hearts, controls our lives**
  - The Bible is clear: either you worship God alone, or you don't worship God at all (Joshua 24:14, 1 Kings 18:21, Matthew 6:24)
  - When God says to have no other idols "before Him," He is saying that we are to have no idols in His presence
    - Would a husband dare to have another woman (girlfriend/mistress in the presence of his wife)? Why do we do that with God.
- **Jesus and You**
  - Who (or what) sits on the **throne** of your heart?
  - How are we to free ourselves of idols?
    - Identify our idols
    - Remove the idols and replace the space in your heart with a greater affection—Jesus
    - Repent and worship God alone

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Reminders for small group leaders:**

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited amount of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. **Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!**

January 13, 2019

- Set aside a time to **pray** for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.
  - Regularly **recap** how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?
  - The teaching happened on Sunday at church. **The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions:** 1) *What is God saying to me in His Word?*, 2) *What is He asking me to do in response?* Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming hearts and lives.
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#### **RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself**

- *What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?*
- *What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?*
- *How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?*

#### **QUESTIONS**

Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss, or make up your own!

#### **Getting to know you**

- What do you think of when you hear The 10 Commandments? Did you learn anything new or were challenged in your thinking by the message?

#### **Into the Bible**

- **Read Deuteronomy 6:1-3 and Deuteronomy 6:20-24.** How would you explain to someone the purpose of God's laws?
  - *The commandments are given not to put us into slavery, but to help us live free*
  - *God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt to live in freedom under His loving rule*
- How have you seen things that we may think of as restrictive (fences, rules, boundaries) actually be good for us?
  - Can you think of a practical example of a rule or a boundary that actually leads to freedom?
- How have you seen people be enslaved to idols, even things that may be good things?

#### **Application**

- Take some time to have your whole group think to themselves about their heart idols. You could potentially have your people share with a partner afterwards. Questions to consider:
  - What are you willing to compromise your beliefs for?
  - What disappoints you?
  - Where do you run for comfort?

January 13, 2019

- What do you get angry about when you don't get it?
  - What do you protect when threatened? What do you get defensive about?
  - What do you value over people?
  - What pulls you away from God?
- What does it look like practically to remove a heart idol and replace it with a greater affection (Jesus)?
  - **Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9.** When we feel overwhelmed by falling short of living for God, what promises can we cling to from this passage?
    - *Jesus' grace will never run out no matter how many times we mess up (verse 4)*
    - *He will sustain us till the end (verse 8)*
    - *We are guiltless before God because of the blood of Jesus (verse 9)*
    - *God is faithful, no matter how many times we are not faithful to Him (verse 9)*

*"Yes, it is true—God will remain faithful even when you're not, because His faithfulness rests on who He is, not on what you're doing (2 Timothy 2:13)...You can take your life off your shoulders because God has placed it on his. This doesn't mean that it doesn't matter how to live, but your security is not found in your faithfulness, but in His." (New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp)*

- Some encouragement:  
*So much of following Jesus requires perseverance. **Read Romans 15:4.** These commands in the Bible are written for our encouragement so that we can endure. But sometimes, we can feel too weak or overwhelmed by our shortcomings to endure. **Look at verse 5.** When we feel we're at our end and cannot move any further, God is the God of endurance and encouragement. He can and will endure longer than we ever could; He gives us grace in our times of need. He will be faithful to us even though we may be faithless at times. 2 Peter 1:3 says that He gives us everything we need to live a godly life. And will provide encouragement every step of the way!*

### **PRAY**

Thank God that He loves us and gives us commands to live by for our good

Thank God for delivering us from our slavery to sin and that He leads us to freedom

Ask the Holy Spirit for help in changing your heart so you have a desire to live for Him

Ask Jesus for help in identifying and replacing your heart idols

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### *College students*

**POD Retreat** is here! It'll be on January 25-27 at the Oregon coast. Sign up for POD Retreat at [osuepic.com](http://osuepic.com) this week. Cost is \$60 before January 21. After January 21, the price increases to \$70.

See you at **Epic on Thursday night** at 7:30pm at MU13. Carrie Bernard will be speaking on depression.

January 13, 2019

*All church*

**Sign up for Worldchangers mission trip by emailing Linne at [boddys@comcast.net](mailto:boddys@comcast.net) by January 27**

- Southern Oregon (July 15-20), construction and church planting

**2018 Giving Statements** are available. Pick yours up in the Welcome Center on Sunday and ensure your statement is correct.

*Men*

The next **book discussion** will be on tomorrow, January 14 at 8pm in the Welcome Center. Questions? Contact Un-Ku Moon.