

## "Our God Is A Jealous God"

Lent 3

1)

Exodus 20:1-17

2)

March 7, 2021

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to him be glory both now and forever. Amen. (2 Thess. 3:5)  
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

There are a lot of things in life that are do's and then there are things also that are don'ts. This morning in our Old Testament lesson got tells us all of the do's and don'ts that he wants us to do and not do he gives us a list. They aren't ten suggestions. He calls them Ten Commandments. Kind of like when you're at home and perhaps your parents tell you we want you to do this we want you to do that, but please don't do this. Parents don't issue suggestions. It's kind of like their rules. If you want to live in this house. You need to follow the rules.

So, why does God give us this list of Ten Commandments? Why did God give the Ten Commandments to his Old Testament people? All sorts of questions that we might ask. We also want to thank today to about how they apply to our lives. For example, when we look at the Ten Commandments, it would be very easy to sit here and talk through while here are the 10 things that God does and does not want us to do. But the Ten Commandments is so much more than that. Today, I want you to think about the simple fact of what he says in verses 5 and 6 of our lesson today when God goes about describing himself. He says **I the Lord your God am a jealous God**. And so this morning I want you to think along with me. What is it mean that our God is a jealous God?

Well, I think first of all we need to Define jealousy, right? What do you think of the word jealous? You think well, that's a sin, isn't it? Well when we think of it and even at times that it's described in the Bible, absolutely. Jealousy is a sin the type of jealousy as we described it would be envious.

For example think of King Saul. What type of jealousy did he have of King David? It wasn't a healthy jealousy. Rather, it was a sinful type of jealousy. God had loved King Saul that he put him in that position and placed him as the king of Israel. But then what we're told is God's favor his love for Saul In that way had left the King Saul. The people would proclaim the women would sing in

first Samuel how Saul has killed his thousands and David his tens of thousands were told this in many other things about King David drove salt to jealousy. When we think of jealousy in that sense, it absolutely is a sin.

But what is a healthy type of jealousy that jealousy that God describes when he says I the Lord your God am a jealous God. What does it mean that God is jealous? Well in the healthy sense of the term, it would be like a relationship and even more so we could say like a marriage relationship. Jealousy, and the sense that God has placed husband and wife into that marriage relationship with each other and when husband and wife take their vows, they say I promise to be faithful to you. What God is describing about himself and certainly when he gives these Ten Commandments to his people. Is I Want Your Love? Not just a little bit. Not just for a Time. But I want it all. I want this healthy type of loving relationship with you.

First of all we're told – **“And God spoke all these words.”** This is God speaking to his people.

And what God does in verses 5 and 6 is he goes to describe not only what this jealousy is. But then also how he wants us to keep it.

So if God says I the Lord your God am a jealous God. He goes on to say **punishing the sins of the fathers of those who hate me but showing love to thousands who love me and keep my Commandments.** When you think about God it really is about those do's and don'ts. He wants that type of loving relationship with each and every single one of us and he wants us to keep his commands. No, think about the ways in which not only God is a jealous God, but how we show our love to God?

### **Commandments 1-3**

The Ten Commandments start out by telling us you shall have no other gods. We know this as the first commandment Martin Luther goes on to explain it. We should fear love and trust in God above all things. Well Do you fear God do you love and trust in God above all things? It really is simple to tell when we're not following and keeping this commandment. When we think about it, it's as simple as if I decided not to come to church today and had other priorities then we would say that thing is a priority

perhaps it's the spend time with your family and go what's breakfast. Or to go up North Or if we would say my friends are more important and doing what they want me to do rather than following God's commands. Breaking the first commandment is about having idols and placing someone or something in God's place. So when God tells us, he's a jealous God, how much do you think it offends him? When we put something in God's proper place. When We Fear love and trust someone else Other than God.

Think about the second commandment or the third commandment about using the lord's name in vain or we think about the third commandment where he tells us remember the Sabbath day by keeping it. Holy. For the Old Testament Israelites. God would say I created the world in six days and here on this seventh day on a Saturday. Now it's to be a day of rest and God's people would go to church they would go and gather and assembly and they would Worship the Lord. It was God's desire. That they do that that they set that time aside to hear and listen to him. Now when we think about the first three Commandments God tells us. This is the aspect of how we show love to him. By placing him above everything else fearing loving and trusting him Above All Things. By not using his name in vain and by remembering the Sabbath day by keeping it. Holy. My gladly hearing and learning God's word. When we think of that aspect of God being a jealous God It really is that matter of wanting to keep that relationship with him. To be faithful to God to cherish him as a spouse would The love God above all things.

### **Commandments 4-10**

When we think about Commandments 4 through 10, he reminds us how showing love to God is more than just showing love to him. But also how we might love our neighbor.

**Honor your father and mother.** Honor all of those in authority over you. **Do not murder.** Don't even have sinful thoughts of anger. **Do not commit adultery.** Do not have those sinful lustful thoughts. **Do not steal. Do not speak false testimony against your neighbor. Do not covet.**

And what do we see? If we look into the mirror of God's law we see that we've broken it we see that we haven't been faithful to him. We see how in so many ways we deserve what God

says there in verse 5 and 6 when he says punish those who hate me. It has the thought behind it of anyone who breaks these commands. And it's not just a punishment that would be for us but for Generations after us. It really is true. Parents who love God. Parents who love God's commands parents who gladly here in God's will learn God's word and pass those priorities on down to their children. That truly does continue to bless.

What does it mean that God is a jealous God. We look at these words of scripture and we're reminded about having not only things like fear love and trust in God above all things. We're reminded about all of the do's and don'ts. But when you ask yourself, what does it mean that God is a jealous God.

And we think about the ways in which we look at these Commandments. It's not just a matter of how often we break them. But also hearing that full weight of God's law of what we deserve. God uses this aspect not only to show our love to him. But also to heed his warnings.

But when we think of how we break God's law. I want you to also think about what it means that God is a jealous God. And the fact that he loves you. What does it mean that God placed all of these commands that I might keep them knowing that I would fall far far short.

God had a plan to keep them in your place. His plan was to send his one and only son to be your perfect substitute. So that every time you looked into the mirror of God's law and you saw an ugly reflection of sin. That you would see your savior. That you would see Jesus as the one who always trusted God above all things. Who always obeyed every one of God's commands who listen to his parents perfectly. Who never raised his voice in anger in a sinful way. Jesus is your perfect substitute. When we look into that mirror of God's law and we see the punishment that we deserve.

Our God is a jealous God. He wants us to remember that he loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross and to take away your every sin. When we look to the Cross we see the pain and suffering that Jesus endured. We see the very fact that Jesus face that separation and punishment from God in our place that he

took upon himself the eternal damnation of hell so that you and I would not have to.

When we look at God's law, we don't need to see it as a set of rules in which we might do a favor to God. But that we would look at these ten commands of our God and think of them this way. That they are opportunity to Simply say thank you God for being a jealous God for wanting to be in that loving relationship with me. Wanting to send your son in my place.

What does it mean that our God is a jealous God? He wants us to look to the cross. He wants us to see Jesus as the one who came to be our perfect substitute. He wants us to look to Jesus as being the one who's taken away our every sin. And who died to take away the sins of the world.

What type of relationship do you have with God? Think of the relationship that God has established but with you By sending his son Jesus to take away your sins. Look to those 10 commands as opportunities for you to say thank you to God for him...loving you.

Let's pray – Dear heavenly father. We thank you for coming to us in your word today and reminding us of your love for us as we look at the Ten Commandments. We see that we Falls far short of your glory. Yet you remind us that you are a jealous God and that you loved us so much that you sent your son. Jesus to take away our every sin continue to remind us of that when we fall short. And pick us up with that comfort that you forgive our every sin we ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen. (Phil.4:7)