

SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Exodus: Set Free, Live Free

TITLE: The Ten Commandments

SCRIPTURE: **Exodus 20:1-17**

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We are in a series on the Book of Exodus from the Old Testament. Why study this book? Exodus is the Old Testament story of the salvation of God's people that points forward to the great salvation that comes to us by faith in Jesus. Exodus helps us better understand what it means for God to *set us free* from our broken, messy lives so we can *live free* in loving, personal relationship with God.

We've come now to the place in the Exodus story, where God has delivered his people from 400 years of slavery in Egypt and he's carried them through the wilderness providing for their every need, and he's brought them to himself—to the mountain of God—Mt Sinai. ... And, he's come down on the mountain with fire and smoke, lightning flashing, thunder crashing, earth quaking, trumpets blaring, boundary lines marked lest anyone break through and die. Serious stuff here. And it is from this fantastic, frightening scene that the people hear God Himself speak forth The Ten Commandments (Ex20:1-17).

Big Idea — ***The 10 Commandments are more about relationship than rule-keeping.***

- Every relationship, in order for it to be a real relationship, carries with it an understanding of how the relationship works.
- The 10 Commandments define how living in a relationship with God works. They are the “basics”—the core values—from which everything else flows.
- The Sinai Covenant was, first and foremost, an invitation to know God and enjoy relationship with God *on his terms*.

Two basic principles that show that the 10 Commandments are more about relationship than rule-keeping.

1. **The 10 Commandments imply a “because of” kind of relationship with God.** (Ex 19:4-5; 20:2) Before God gives people commands to obey, he reminds them of who he is and what he's done in saving them. God initiates the relationship and the people agree to the covenant (cf Exodus 19:8).
 - The implication is: “Because I am your God, because I have saved you, now therefore obey me.” God says, “Because I am like this, you be like this—that's how relationship with me works.”
 - Essentially, in the 10 Commandments, God is saying, “I am the Lord your God, you can trust me to provide everything you need, therefore, live this way.”

- Obedience to God's commands is simply an expression of our trust in him to meet our needs. God's commands are for our good (Dt 10:12-13)
 - But what we think is for our own good doesn't always line up with what God thinks is good for us.
- 2. In giving these commands, God describes himself as a "jealous" God** (cf Ex 34:14).
- "Godly jealousy is angered love that stays love." (Tim Keller). Godly jealousy is about the loss of relationship.
 - Your relationship with God has to be the priority relationship in your life.
 - In the Bible, what provokes God's jealousy is idolatry (Ex 20:4).
 - Idols are good things that become the main things.
 - In a very real sense, we are supposed to look at the 10 Commandments romantically, not just relationally.

So how do we move in the direction of maintaining a heart that prioritizes our relationship with God over everything else?

- Root out the idols in your life.
- Re-preach the Gospel to yourself every day.

For Discussion —

1. Ask if anyone had any "ahas!" from last week's overview of the Ten Commandments since the last time you met.
2. Talk about the whole idea of our relationship with God being "because of" rather than "in order to." What exactly does that mean?
3. What's the difference between "bad" jealousy and "godly" jealousy?
4. What are idols? How can you identify an idol in your life? Why do idols provoke God to jealousy?
5. How does marriage illustrate this whole point about God being a jealous God?
6. How would you explain to someone at work or school that the 10 Commandments are more about relationship than rule-keeping?