

LESSON 10: EXODUS 19 & 20
SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

OVERVIEW

- . Preparation for the giving of the law – Exodus 19
- . Our relationship with God – Exodus 20:1-11
- . Our relationship with our fellow man – Exodus 20:12-21

PREPARATION FOR THE GIVING OF THE LAW – EXODUS 19

- . The book of Exodus is divided in to two equal parts
 - . The deliverance – Exodus 1-18
 - . The first eighteen chapters of Exodus deal with the actual events of the Exodus and the journey to Mt. Sinai
 - . The Law – Exodus 19-40
 - . The last twenty-one chapters of Exodus deal with receiving of the moral, civil and ceremonial laws
 - . The moral law – Exodus 19-20
 - . The civil law – Exodus 21-24
 - . The ceremonial law – Exodus 25-40
- . The Israelites prepare themselves for the receiving of the law – Exodus 19
 - . The Israelites physically arrive at Mt. Sinai – Exodus 19:1-2
 - . The Lord asks the Israelites if they are willing to enter in to a covenant with Him and they respond yes – Exodus 19:3-8
 - . There is a three day period of ceremonial cleansing and consecration Exodus 19:9-15
 - . God lays down limits to accessing the mountain and having direct interaction with Him – Exodus 19:16-25
 - . The preparation stressed first, the holiness of God and second, the need for holiness on the part of the people
 - . “Be Holy because I am holy” – Leviticus 11:44-45

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD – EXODUS 20:1-11

- . “You shall have no other gods before me” – Exodus 20:3
 - . We need to make God #1 in our lives
 - . God will not accept anything less than first place in our hearts
 - . God makes it very clear throughout scripture that there is but one God and He speaks with absolute authority

- . What's at the heart of our opposition to this commandment?
 - . Syncretism – pulling a lot of divergent things together to try to make a whole out of them
 - . We try to honor God while living in a world that wants to move away from Him
 - . In our effort to get along in this world, we try to blend in and thus diminish the uniqueness of God
 - . If not careful we end up with a syncretism Christianity where God is no longer #1
 - . Sensualism – allowing our senses to so dominate us that we push aside the truth becoming purely sensual people
 - . Our senses allow us to interact with the world around us
 - . Our senses were not designed to deal with the heavenly realm
 - . Faith does not engage the senses
 - . Faith forces us to deal with something greater than our sense, the One who gave us our senses
 - . “How long will you waiver between two opinions” – I Kings 18:21
 - . A healthy relationship with God begins by putting Him in His rightful place - #1

- 2
- . “You shall not worship false idols” – Exodus 20:4-6
 - . The second commandment builds on the first by saying you may be worshipping the one true God, but in a false manner through false idols
 - . The fundamental rule here is never represent the Creator by anything Created
 - . Not only should you not make idols, you shall not bow down to them and worship them
 - . God is perfect – any attempt on our part to create a physical representation of Him will fall short of His glory
 - . Any attempt to create and worship an idol is an attempt to reduce God in to our sensual realm where we can use our senses to reach Him
 - . Idolatry attempts to remake God into our own image
 - . Commandment is a reminder that our faith in God must transcend our senses
 - . “God is spirit and His worshippers need to worship in spirit and in truth” John 4:24

- 3
- . “Do not use the Lord's name in vain” – Exodus 20:7
 - . What's in a name?
 - . “Our Father in heaven, hallowed by thy name” – Matthew 6:9
 - . The name of God represents the nature of God
 - . To dishonor the name is to dishonor God
 - . “What is your name? . . . “I am who I am” – Exodus 3:13-22
 - . All of the many names we use today to reference God, have their origins in this revelation of God
 - . God has told us what we are to call Him and He expects us to honor it

- . How do we take God's name in vain?
 - . Vain – without real significance, value, or importance
 - . To use God's name in any way that empties it of its true significance, is to use God's name in vain
 - . To defile God's name is the most common interpretation of this Commandment

4

- . "Honor the Sabbath by keeping it Holy" – Exodus 20:8-11
 - . Why the Sabbath
 - . A day of rest was part of God's original design – Genesis 2:2-3
 - . Reinforced with the collection of manna – Exodus 16:23
 - . For humanitarian reasons
 - . God recognizes that people can't keep going seven days a week
 - . To show trust in God
 - . To sacrifice a day's wages or a day in the field requires trust
 - . As a sign of the covenant
 - . "Demonstrate your love for me by keeping my commandments"
 - . A needed time to focus on our #1 priority
 - . When is the Sabbath?
 - . Is it Saturday, Sunday, or does it matter
 - . Desecration of the Sabbath
 - . Total lack of interest in putting a day aside to honor God
 - . Obsessive observation of the Sabbath
 - . How can we honor the Sabbath?
 - . God has given us a special day in the week that can look totally different than the other days
 - . Give thanks to God by using that day to sharpen focus on Him and what it means to serve Him, worship Him and obey Him

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR FELLOW MAN – EXODUS 20:12-21

5

- . "Honor your father and mother" – Exodus 20:12
 - . Why should I honor my father and mother?
 - . "It enables you to live long in the land" – Exodus 20:12
 - . For most of human history, the family provided physical security
 - . Rural family provided means for food, work and safety
 - . A strong, well functioning family provided a better quality of life
 - . In today's culture a healthy society has, at its heart, a healthy family dynamic
 - . Where a family stands, a culture stands
 - . "It will be well with you" – Deuteronomy 5
 - . A family unit where children are taught to honor their parents and parents are taught to be honorable enhances the well being of all members of the family

- . "It is the right thing to do" – Ephesians 6:1
 - . God commands us to do, why, because it's the right thing to do

6

- . "You shall not murder" – Exodus 20:13
 - . The key to this commandment is the proper translation of the Hebrew word "ratsah" which means murder, not kill
 - . This commandment doesn't prohibit killing in any form
 - . Deuteronomy 20 provides bible rules for killing in war
 - . Exodus 21:12-13 gives description of allowable killing
 - . Scripture delineates between types of killings based on motive
 - . God puts great value in the sanctity of life, and therefore, so should we
 - . To needlessly, or selfishly choose to take another life for our own personal gain is wrong
 - . Christ elaborates on this command by stating that murder is not confined to merely a physical act, but emotional as well – Matthew 5:21-22
 - . "Anyone who is angry with his brothers is subject to judgment"
 - . "Anyone who says to his brother "Raca" is answerable to the Sanhedrin
 - . "Anyone who says "you fool" will be in danger of the fire of hell"
 - . Murder can be thought of as seeking damage to others, even if it never happen

7

- . "You shall not commit adultery" – Exodus 20:14
 - . Adultery – voluntary sexual intercourse of a married person with someone other than spouse
 - . Christ tells us this command not only deals with an actual act of adultery, but even the lustful longings of the heart – Matthew 5:28
 - . "Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery in his heart"
 - . There is probably no point at which the Ten Commandments comes in to more obvious and explicit conflict with contemporary morality than here
 - . Although people murder, steal and dishonor authority, culture still acknowledges it's wrong
 - . Modern culture, on the other hand, openly pushes for a sexual awakening that embraces any and all types of relationships
 - . The bible's standard is purity before marriage and fidelity afterward
 - . The sanctity of marriage is important to God and He knows nothing can destroy it quicker than adultery

8

- . "You shall not steal" – Exodus 20:15
 - . Societies, throughout the ages, have all condemned stealing, but only the bible gives us a clear answer why
 - . Our possessions have been given to us by God and therefore to steal from another is to steal from God
 - . "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the father" – James 1:17

- . Stealing, at the core, is a totally selfish act, that puts one person's wants above the well being of anyone else
- . A person can also be stealing from God, by hoarding his possessions and not wanting to share them with others
- . A lazy person can also be stealing from God, or from their employer, by not using the gift of time wisely
- . We can honor God, by honoring the property of others and by willingly sharing our property with others

9

- . "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor" – Exodus 20:16
 - . At the heart of this command is truthfulness
 - . "Let your yes be yes and your no be no" – Matthew 5:37
 - . What does God desire here?
 - . "Truth in the inner parts" – Psalm 51:6
 - . "Must put off falsehoods and speak truthfully" – Ephesians 4:25
 - . Honor thy neighbor by avoiding slander, gossip, and deliberate exaggerations or distortions of truth
 - . If our hearts are filled with "self" we will always shade the truth for our own Advantage
 - . We need to speak the truth in love as He did

10

- . "You shall not covet" – Exodus 20:17
 - . This is the only commandment that deals directly with our inner attitudes and explicitly to the laws of our inner nature
 - . This 'law' strikes at the very root of materialistic western culture
 - . Our economy is built on inciting lust for as many products as possible in as many hearts and minds as possible
 - . It is wrong to want something simply because another person has it
 - . The further we move away from God, the more we covet to fill the empty void
 - . Our coveting nature can lead to other sins, adultery, stealing, and murder
 - . On the other hand, the closer we move to God, the more selfless our heart, the less we desire to covet
 - . As we grow in our faith, there's less of a desire for things and more of a desire for God
 - . The tenth commandment provides us with a good self examination for how obedient we are to the first commandment

NEXT LESSON IS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011: EXODUS 21 - 24

NOVEMBER 2, 2011