

Sermon Notes – July 1, 2018

Welcome!

What is it about rules that makes us want to break them? No list of rules or laws has been more debated – and broken – than the Ten Commandments. Over the next ten weeks of summer we'll be walking our way through the Ten Commandments, an ancient expression of God's character & God's heart for His people!

Today's Text: Exodus 19:16-20:17

The fledgling nation of Israel is fresh out of 400 years of slavery in Egypt! The Ten Plagues just happened. The mud of the Red Sea is still clinging to their sandals. The complaints about the food have already begun, and Mount Sinai looms before them. It's time for a meeting with God. (READ the text)

What's Going On? (Context!)

- ⇒ You need to know the _____ of the Bible to make sense of the parts. In short, the Bible is a story of how God redeems and restores broken and rebellious people.
- ⇒ You need to know how to interact with three kinds of OT "Law":
 - The _____ Law – how to worship & approach God *before* Messiah Jesus comes (i.e. sacrifices & feasts); these regulations point to Christ & are fulfilled in Him (Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 10:1).
 - The _____ Law – how the *nation* of Israel should function (specific to Israel; the church is not Israel & the church does not replace Israel).
 - The _____ Law – how to live before a holy God – for all people in all places at all times. Please get this: The Law IS a grace! Ultimately, the moral Law tells us what God is like and points us to Christ.

Who Says So?

- ⇒ A God who _____ is stunning! Remember our study of I Cor. 10 – "Be Careful What You Worship" (because you become like what you worship). The God of the Bible tells us what He is like!

Exodus 20:1-17
Pastor Jay Mosser
The God Who Speaks, The God Who Saves

- Psalm 96:5 – "*The gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.*" This is a familiar theme in Scripture.

- ⇒ The God who speaks is our Redeemer! Before God tells us *what* to do, He reminds us what He has *done*. God's moral law is given to _____ people. It is not a _____. What we are to do flows from what He has done.

What IS the First Commandment?

- ⇒ "You shall have no other gods *before* Me." (i.e. "before My face")
- ⇒ When we speak of "God" or "gods," we mean essentially "*whatever your heart clings to or relies upon*" (Martin Luther). What we worship is revealed by our daily choices, especially how we handle our _____, desires, & _____. Every human alive worships something or Someone.
- ⇒ Jesus expressed this prohibition positively in Mark 12:30 by quoting Deuteronomy 6:5 – "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.*" Do you see how these two expressions say essentially the same thing?
- ⇒ An important "rule of interpretation": When one thing is prohibited, the _____ is encouraged! For example, "Do not murder" doesn't simply mean, "Don't kill the people who bug you."; it also means, "Value life."

Implications & Response

- ⇒ Earlier today we asked the question, "What is it about rules that makes us want to break them?" What's the answer to that question?
- ⇒ One of the major purposes of God's moral law is to reveal our sinful hearts and point us to Christ. How could I see my need for Christ if I had no apprehension of God's holy standard and how I have broken it? (Romans 7:7-8)
- ⇒ READ Hebrews 12:18-29, especially 25 (Communion: Hebrews 9:11-14)

Next Sunday: July 8, 2018

"Why It is Right for God to be Jealous"

Exodus 20:1-17

Matt Richey