

Exodus 20:1-27 God's Big Ten

Scene camped at MT Siani –

A) Ominous scene:

B) Majesty and Holiness

And God spoke all these words, saying:

2“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3“You shall have no other gods before Me.

4“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

7“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

8“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

12“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

13“You shall not murder.

14“You shall not commit adultery.

15“You shall not steal.

16“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's. - Pray

Somebody once Suggested that if Jesus were to do His ministry on earth today that He would be in trouble with

A) the FDA, Food and Drug Administration, for turning water into wine without a license,

B)the EPA Environmental Protection Agency for killing fig trees, , the AMA American Medical Association - for practicing medicine without a license,

C)the Department of Health for asking people to open up graves and for raising the dead and for feeding 5,000 people in the wilderness.

D)He'd be in trouble with NEA, National Education Association, for teaching without a certificate,

1)The National Board of Psychiatrists for giving people advice on how to live a guilt free life

E)And OSHA for walking on water without a life jacket and flying without an airplane.

Man has rules and laws for everything under the sun

A)But here in Exodus we see that God gives his Big 10 the Ten Commandments

B)God's commands are so simple. Just 10 – encompass everything

C)Jesus even summarized the 10 into 2 this Way: Love God with all your heart soul mind and strength – Love your neighbor as yourself

Tonight we are going to breakdown each of these commands and talk about what they mean for us today.

And God spoke all these words, saying:

2“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Why do the Ten Commandments begin with Yahweh's self-declaration?

A)One of the main reasons is because "the character of God undergirds everything he says and does

B)God tells them to do something because of who He is."

C)He calls himself the Lord YOUR GOD personal

D) who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Your Deliverer

The Purpose of the 10 commandments

A)I want to discuss now their relevance.

B)What do they mean to us personally?

C)#1 View them as a compass. #2 A guardrail . #3 as a mirror. #4 as a thermometer

#1 a compass.

A)In the 10 commandments we have 10 categories, 10 reference points for you and I to plot our way through life,

B)Things you don't ever have to pray about. They're just fixed.

C)Example You never have to say, you know, I'm interested in this other person.

1)I know I'm married, but I'm sort of thinking about maybe having an affair, so I'm going to pray about that.

D)You don't need to ever pray about that. "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Done.

E)Don't have to ever worry about that, just don't do it. You're going to find these 10 guiding principles.

1)And if you treat them as reference points on a compass, they'll give you direction.

#2 As a Guardrail

A)Ever been driving in the MTS switchback – aren't you thankful for those Guardrails?

B)Help you see when crossing a line -into danger

#3 A mirror to reveal the truth about us.

A) Now we all have love-hate relationships with our bathroom mirrors. We all have them. But we don't all love them.

B) They tell us the truth. As soon as you get up in the morning and look in the mirror, it's like Oh no

C) **You can't blame the mirror.** Skinny mirrors..... ☺

1) It's just the truth.

D) **The mirror only reveals the need. It doesn't fix the problem.**

Charles Spurgeon compared the Law to a set of clothes perfectly tailored to the ideal version of you.

A) Imagine if the only clothes you were allowed to wear were when you were 22 yrs old ideal build and weight

B) Imagine trying to put those on now – For most of – not a pretty site

1) Things have moved right?

C) I have some shirts – I am still holding on to – Hope One day

Spurgeon's point: This is what the Law does, We try it on and it exposes all the places our hearts don't fit God's mold.

A) And see, that's what drives us to grace.

B) Trying to obey the law brings us to the need for salvation in Christ.

C) So The 10 commandments are a mirror that shows us our need for a Savior

#4 A thermometer to gauge our love for God.

A) Jesus said if you love me you will keep my commandments

B) Even though as Christians we are now living under Grace – no longer trying to be accepted by keeping the Law

C)Accepted in Christ – In the Beloved

D)There is still a desire that wants to please God – the More I understand his love – more I want to love him in return.

Dating Denise: Impress her – 1st date Chart house – YP Salary

A)Why? Win her?

B)Once I won her – didn't switch the Jack in the Box

C)Now I like to take her out to eat nice places and buy her gifts – to show her how much I love and appreciate her

D)Sizzler – Thank you Jesus!

So the commandments are a)#1 a compass. #2 A guardrail . #3 a mirror. #4 as a thermometer

A)So keep those four things in mind as we work our way through the commandments tonight

Commandment #1 3“You shall have no other gods before Me.

A)In Egypt the people of Israel were exposed to a Polytheistic faith

B) The ancient Egyptians deified nature, animals, even the pharaoh. They recognized 20,000 different gods.

C)We noted in the chapters we covered dealing with the plagues that God was attacking – the top ten gods in Egypt

So the first thing that God wants to make Clear to his people

A)They were to be a One God nation – No other Gods

B)In our Pledge of Allegiance: One nation under God – unfortunately we are not a ONE GOD NATION

1)CUTLURE OF MANY gods

C) A god is whatever or whoever holds the highest place of affection in your heart

1) Possession/ A person/ A pleasure – live for

Tony Merida - Everyone is a worshiper of someone or something. Idolatry is putting someone or something else in the place of God

DL Moody - Whatever you make most of is your god. Whatever you love more than God is your idol.

The human nature is like an idol factory that operates constantly. We constantly deal with the temptation to set all kinds of things before or competing with God and His preeminent place in our life. John Calvin

When we look at it in that way: Mirror – We have all been guilty at some point in our lives of breaking this first commandment

A) Love for A Job, Live to work, A spouse – life revolves around that person

B) A Child – Parents who's whole lives revolve around their kids

C) God wants to be the #1 source of our affection.

So The first Commandment is about the Worship of the Right God

A) The 2nd Commandment: Worship of the right God the right way

B) If the first commandment says that God has to be worshiped exclusively,

1) then the second commandment would tell us God is to be worshiped correctly.

**4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;
5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.**

C) No Carved images

J. I. Packer once said, "Metal images are simply the consequence of mental images."

D) See people will make images based on what their mental conception is of the god they worship.

We are going to see Israel do this very thing in Exodus 32

A) Moses is on the MT with God – delays coming down

B) Our leader is gone we need a god – Image – Gold fashioned it into a golden calf – “this is your God.” – Clothes off danced

C) Now in our western culture today we wouldn’t be so prone to do that
Some carved image – Worship at

But we do this all the time: How do you picture God

A) We create an image of God in our minds that usually isn’t an accurate Portrayal of who He is in his complete Glory

B) Often 2 extremes: On the one side - we pictured him as Overly mean – out to get us – Cosmic Cop

C) Other side far too gracious and tolerant of our sin – Push over

I think at the heart of this commandment is to keep the Wonder of who God is alive in our heart

A) He is greater, bigger, more majestic, holy, wonderful than we could ever imagine

B) Can’t be put into this predictable box

C) Higher than we can understand – more lofty than we can comprehend

1) But that is good – If he was so small that we could comprehend him he would be great and grand enough to worship

Now what is meant by this idea that God is a Jealous God ?

A_ God is a “jealous God,” not in the sense that He’s envious of other gods,

B)for He knows that all other “gods” are figments of the imagination and don’t really exist.

CThe word “jealous” expresses His love for His people because He wants the very best for them.

1)Just as parents are jealous over their children and spouses over their mates

D)Bad influence: Protective of their hearts

Alan Redpath comments that “God’s jealousy is love in action. ... God is not jealous of us: He is jealous for us.”

Now what is meant by this idea V5 visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

A)First of all let me be clear that the scriptures make it clear that everyone is judged according to their own sins

Deuteronomy 24:16 “Fathers shall not be put to death for their sons, **nor shall sons be put to death for their fathers**; everyone shall be put to death for his own sin.

Does this describe a so-called generational curse?

A)What it is key phrase in V5? Of those who hate me

B)Illustrating a proven truth: If the parents hate God there is a really good chance their kids will hate God too –

1)Carries on from generation to generation

C)But if the parents love and seek to obey God – there is a good chance the kids will do so as well.

Max Jukes and Jonathan Edwards

#3 7“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

A) Now the phrase in vain, or vain, in the Bible means "empty" or "emptiness."

B) The Amplified Bible, "You will not take the name of the Lord lightly, frivolously, in false affirmations, or profanely."

C) So to use God's name in vain is to empty that name of its value, its content, its meaning.

D) Jesus said "From the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." "From the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks."

1) In other words, your mouth is a barometer of your heart.

E) So then this command has to do with careless speech that comes from an unguarded heart.

1) Careless speech that comes from an unguarded heart.

Three ways people do this today:

(1) Profanity: Using the name of God in blasphemy and cursing.

(2) Frivolity: Using the name of God in a superficial, stupid way. OMG

(3) Hypocrisy: Claiming the name of God but acting in a way that disgraces Him

⁸**"These people draw near to Me with their mouth,
And honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.**

⁹**And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' " Matthew 15:8-9**

#4 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

A Special day that is set aside to Enjoy God delight in God

A) Rebellion against the system of the World – Work all work –

B)The Sabbath was made for man – Not man for the Sabbath

C)Don't complicate it – enjoy it

In his book, “*Confessions of a Former Sabbath Breaker*,” Eugene Peterson writes, “Keeping a Sabbath is simple and easy: we pray and we play, two things we were pretty good at as children, and can always pick up again with a little encouragement and if we can only find the time. But we don't have to find the time, it is given to us. A day a week. A Sabbath. A day to pray and play. God's gift.”

For your sake, for your family's sake, take one day in seven, and make it a Sabbath!

#5 12“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

A)Honor Hebrew word Kabad – God's glory it is heavy, weighty

B)So the Idea of Honoring your parents is – Giving Value and Weight to their role

C)Treating with respect:

My friend Sandy Adams made this observation about this command

A)Now there are some Bible scholars who divide the commandments into two tablets of 4 and 6

B)First tablet is the first four having to do with your relationship with God

C)The 2nd tablet containing the 6 commands that have to do with our relationship to other people.

D)Thus they tend to put this command on the 2nd tablet

Sandy says: I believe this command appeared on the first tablet.

A)Because your relationship with your parents is in many ways interconnected with your relationship with God.

B) If you can't obey an authority you can see, your parents – then how are you going to obey an authority you can't see, God?

C) He argues that Respect for one's parents is critical to a child's ability to obey and respect other types of authority in their life.

**D) If a child doesn't obey and respect his parents, he probably won't end up obeying and respecting his teacher, or coach,
1) or the police, or his boss – AND even God.**

E) You learn to honor God by honoring your parents.

Interesting observation: And note this is the only command that ends with a promise: that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

Now The Last 5 Commandments clearly deal with our relationship with our fellow human beings

A) The first Five could be summed up and fulfilled with Loving God with all our heart soul mind and strength.

B) Worship the right God, the right way, honor his Name, we will love the idea of setting a day aside for him

C) And we will honor our parents

The 2nd five are summed up in the Command to love your neighbor as yourself. #6 13 "You shall not murder.

A) The first chapters of Genesis teach us that man was created in the image and likeness of God.

B) That truth has a multitude of implications, but it certainly means that man is unique.

1) Including but not limited to the reality that Human life is sacred and holy - it's special to God.

C)After the flood When Noah exited the Ark, God established human government.

D)In Genesis 9:6 He told Noah and his descendants, "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man."

1)There God institutes capital punishment.

But His rationale is interesting - murder is not only a crime against man - it mars God's image in humanity.

A)That makes murder an assault on God.

B)Murder is when man terminates another human life of his own initiative – without the sanction of God.

C)Murder occurs whenever man sets himself up as God to decide who lives and dies.

D)The Bible says humans are “**fearfully and wonderfully made.**” We bear the Creator's image,

1)and it's a crime to mar that image for convenience or advancement.

It is interesting that Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus ups the ante on the Sixth Commandment.

A)He reveals that murder isn't just the action – but it literally starts with the attitude of the heart

B)In Matthew 5:21-22 He says, "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment."

C)There are people here today who've never shot a gun, or held a knife - but you've fired verbal bullets at your spouse...

D)You've assassinated the character of a coworker under your breath... you've mowed down a motorist with a verbal tirade...

#7 14 "You shall not commit adultery."

A) There was a 1st grade Sunday School class was learning about the Ten Commandments,

B) The teacher was worried that one of her first graders would want her to explain the seventh commandment

1) *What would she say? How do you explain "adultery" to kids?*

C) Well, just as she feared, a student raised his hand. The little boy asked, "What does it mean to commit agriculture?"

He'd gotten his words confused!

A) But after the teacher stopped laughing, she still needed an answer. After a long silence, another child in the class, bailed her out.

B) He answered his friend, "It means you shouldn't plough in another man's field."

C) Hey That works for committing agriculture or adultery.

Commandment #6 Holds up the Sanctity of Human life and commandment #7 the Sanctity of Marriage

A) Marriage bed is sacred – not to be defiled

B) Marriage is a picture of God's relationship with his church

C) We are the Bride and Jesus is the Bridegroom

Just as murder mars the image of God, adultery mars the image of Christ and His Church.

A) Once again Jesus in the sermon on the mount takes this to another level

B) In Matthew 5:27-28 He said to His disciples, "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

C)Want to avoid Adultery: Don't entertain the thought in your mind – being with another person

1)Lusting

D)Don't open the door – Friendships with the opposite sex

Marriage is like gardening:

A)What you plant reap –

B)What you put into it – get out of it

All too often people in our society find it easier to get a new spouse, than to workthrough a difficult marriage.

A)"Affairs" have been called "love for the lazy."

B)Marriage is like gardening – it takes a lot of planting and weeding and watering and watching.

C)*Plow in your own field, and you'll yield a bumper crop of blessing.*

#8 The Eighth Commandment is in verse 15, **"You shall not steal."** The Sixth Commandprotects **the sanctity of human life.**

A)The Seventh **the sanctity of marriage.**

B)This command protects **the sanctity of private property.**

C)We often want to think of Stealing as – Grand thefts cars, banks, fraud –

Easy for us to ignore things like not being truthful on taxes

A)Or taking supplies from work

B)Taking longer lunch brakes than allotted – all forms of stealing

C)If honest most of us have been guilty of this one more than we think

Here is a form of Stealing the Bible talks about that we never like to discuss

A)In Malachi 3:8 God asks the question, “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed you? In tithes and offerings.”

B)In ancient Israel the tithe (or “tenth”) was not the people’s to give. It belonged to God.

C)All that Israel had belonged to God and He expected them to honor Him by their giving...

D)God has the same expectation of us... To hoard what we know to give is a form of stealing...

#9 The Ninth Commandment is found in verse 16, **"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."**

A)The primary sense of this command has to do with the legal process.

B)Yet it is common to speak in an informal court, where what we say is taken seriously, and truth or error matters for us and for others.

C)Listen we can break the ninth commandment through slander, tale bearing, gossip creating and false impressions,

D)“Slander... is a lie invented and spread with intent to do harm.

James 3:6 says it best, “The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.”

E)Your opinion doesn’t matter – not truth – don’t share it

#10 The Tenth and final Commandment is recorded in verse 17, "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, (nor his Harley motorcycle, or new 80’ TV, or swimming pool - or her new counter tops, or her new SUV...) nor anything that is your neighbor's."

The great reformer of old Martin Luther made this observation:

A) He said have you noticed that prohibitions against idolatry bookend the Commandments.

B) Commandment 1: You shall have no other gods before me (a literal command against idolatry)

C) and Commandment 10: You shall not covet. (Which, the Apostle Paul explains in Colossians, coveting is a kind of idolatry,

1) because coveting arises in our hearts when we identify something that someone else has and we think we need that more than God

Covetousness is rooted in a lack of Contentment with God and where he has you!

A) For example, why do we steal? We steal because we covet something that God has not provided for us.

B) So we are saying God and his plans are not enough; we need something more.

C) Why do we lie? Because we covet something we can't "purchase" with the truth.

1) **Why do we murder? Because someone took from us or kept us from something we really wanted.**

Why do we commit adultery?

A) Because we're not satisfied with whatever romantic relationship God has put us in.

B) It's all rooted in idolatry—not being satisfied with God or not really trusting God—

C) It moves you to put Self on the throne and that drives you to break all the other commandments.

D) Paul said: **I have learned to be content** – meaning didn't come naturally – not the natural tendency of the flesh

1) But it Contentment starts with being Satisfied with God

E)Who He is and a trust in what HE has done.

So there we have the 10 commandments – Wrap up the Chapter – looking at the final 8 verses

¹⁸ Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood afar off. ¹⁹ **Then they said to Moses, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.”**

²⁰ And Moses said to the people, **“Do not fear; for God has come to test you,** and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.”

Moses in essence is saying that is not the kind of fear that God is looking for from you. Not a fear that cowards from God – hides

A)But a reverence and respect.

B)Fire or the Ocean – Wonderful – majestic – not careless

²¹ So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God *was*. ²² Then the LORD said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. ²³ You shall not make *anything to be* with Me—gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves. ²⁴ An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you. ²⁵ And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it. ²⁶ Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be exposed on it.’

Here after the Law is heeded an ALTAR is needed

A)When a person really hears the Law of God – you realize – I am a sinner and I need a Savior – Sacrifice is needed to take away sins

B) NOTE THE DIVINE FLOW – God gives the law & then He instructs – build an ALTAR

Tremendous insight into the heart of God – I will make Provision

C) At the foot of Mt. Siani – after the Law is given – that which would be a school master – man's need – God says – Make an altar

D) Preview of the Sacrifice that God would give in His Son

E) Sacrifice of Burnt offerings / Peace / all pictures of Jesus –see when we get there – I Love this:

Here is another thing to think about ever wonder why there were two tablets of the 10 commandments?

A) We naturally think that God split them up – 5 and 5 – or 4 and 6 – but the Bible doesn't really tell us that

B) Some Scholars believe each tablet contained all of the commandments

1) Two sets of the same thing

C) That is typically how contracts were drawn up in those days – each party would get a set

So Some scholars believe that is the case here:

A) But here is where it gets really interesting – Where were the Two stone tablets kept?

B) They were both put in the Ark of the Covenant under the mercy seat.

C) It wasn't just one – God kept one and Moses put the other in his tent

D) Both in the Ark under the mercy seat. And that was God's way of saying – I will do this all

You will fail – but I am going to cover you – My Mercy My Grace

A) Either way it speaks of that –

B) What was sprinkled on the Mercy seat – Blood – Covering – atonement – pointed to Jesus

C)Here God is Making that same declaration: - After the law He has them build an altar of stone or earth –

D)Not something Ornate – Gold or silver – why? The Focus was to be on the Sacrifice not the Altar

No steps: Low on the ground – Speaks of Humility

A)Not lofty – Jesus would humble himself – die criminals death – become sin for us

B)So that we could be Saved! – Glory be to God!