

JULY 22nd

WHO IS OUR GOD?

“And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

EXODUS 20:1-2

Questions. People are full of them. Especially young children. Their minds are like sponges that want to understand the world that God has given us...so they ask questions about it. Sometimes as adults we lose our skill of asking questions...and we often lose our ability to be able to answer questions. So, let's have a little quiz. Don't worry, you're not being graded on this. Consider it a pass/fail quiz. If someone asked you this question, what would you say? “Who is your God?” I'll follow that question up with a second one...” What's something that you can tell me about your God?” Take some time to answer. What did you say? Why did you answer that way? A.W. Tozer wrote a statement in his book “Knowledge of the Holy”: “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” We are about to take a tour of the greatest Law that's ever been given to humanity. The commands or “words” are remembered for their call to correct conduct towards God and towards humans. Yet, God has something to say about Himself before we dive into the deep end of the pool of these 10 words. If you stop to think about the intro before the words, you'll have a proper foundation for living out the words. What is God saying here?

“God spoke all these words.” It may seem like a formality for Moses to write that phrase, but God communicates a huge truth here. God speaks. God enters the world that He has created. God initiates. This is the story of the Bible. How was the earth created? “And God said, ‘Let there be light, and there was light.’” We've already discovered in past devotions that God is both near and far...at the same time. He condescends to His sinful people and offers Himself. The people haven't asked for Him to give His Law. He gives the Law out of His gracious plan for His people. In Deuteronomy we will learn that “man doesn't live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.” Moses speaks of the power of God's Word. God's Word is all that we need. It is enough for us; it always has been. Our temptation as people today is to chase feelings and experiences. In that search, we lose sight of how special it is that God speaks to us in the Scriptures. His Word is sufficient for us.

God also tells us here about His works...He saves. He has brought the Hebrews out of Egypt and out of the house of slavery. God rescues the people from tyranny and oppression. At first glance, you'd think that the problems of the Hebrew people would vanish because they aren't slaves anymore, but we quickly see that the physical problem were only a symptom that points to a greater disease...sin. Even as they are “free” from the slavery of Egypt, they are slaves to their sin. That's why we see almost immediate grumbling. God saves because of His glory. Think about it for a minute. Does God need us? Was there some void or emptiness that He felt in heaven, so He came up with a plan for people to join Him there? God gives mercy and grace to His people—He calls them by name into a relationship...and it comes from His fullness. What an amazing God!

One more thing, have you noticed the order of what is given here in Exodus 20? What comes first and what comes second? That's right, it's relationship before response. God's love for His people and His rescue comes before our morality. Our relationship isn't initiated because we lived a certain way that God expected. Instead, our being brought out of the slavery of sin produces right living. The root of forgiveness produces life change. We often swap these positions. But God. God consistently shows us that His love is based out of His perfection, and we respond out of the forgiveness and rescue that we've already been given. How will we respond to our God's rescue today?

Spend some time thinking about the mercy and grace of God to speak to His sinful people.

Thank Him for His grace to rescue you from your sin.

For Further Reading: Psalm 115

