

Order- Week 4

The Ten Financial Commandments

1. Put God First

You must not have any other god but me.

Exodus 20:3

So he went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, "Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?" ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called to her, "Bring me a bite of bread, too."

¹² But she said, "I swear by the Lord your God that I don't have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die."

¹³ But Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you've said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what's left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the Lord sends rain and the crops grow again!"

1 Kings 17:10-14

The widow- bring it to me FIRST

What's in your hand? Putting God first changes our perspective on what we have in our hands.
Miraculous provision

God sent Elijah to her so God could provide for her- not the other way around.

- financial provision in the moment

- her son died later & Elijah was there to raise him from the dead

- God knew what she needed down the road and through her putting Him first, she cleared way for the long-term provision

God set up the principle of the tithe, not so that He or the church can be taken care of- but so that we can be taken care of.

2. Don't worship material things

You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea.

Exodus 20:4

What material thing have I put before God?

Have I ever bought something I regretted buying?

To keep myself from worshipping material things- remember- I am a steward, not an owner.

Practical tip: if it's not my money, and I truly believe I am stewarding God's heavenly resources here on earth, consult with the owner before spending it.

3. Don't use God's name selfishly

Don't take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Exodus 20:7

Vain in this use = selfishly

Are my prayers solely focused on my own personal gain?

It's okay to pray for my wants and needs, but am I using the name of Jesus to stay focused on myself or in regards to His supply to the world?

4. Be a good steward

Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹You have six days each week for your ordinary work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God.

Exodus 20:8-10

Good stewardship is believing that God can do more with one day than I can do with 6. It's believing that God can do more with 10% than I can do with 100%. (tithe principle)

All good stewards do these three things:

Spend wisely. Save diligently. Give generously.

5. Teach your children

Honor your father and your mother.

Exodus 20:12

God wanted the children to honor the parents because it was from them they would learn the ways, the precepts and the character of God.

Your children are learning about God and money from you.

Is my language and life teaching my children to serve God or serve money?

No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

Luke 16:13

6. Live on a budget

You must not murder.

Exodus 20:13

If I'm not living on a budget- I'm killing myself and the resources God has entrusted me with.

We plan to fail when we fail to plan.

A budget helps you make financial decisions without emotions.

7. Live below your means

You must not commit adultery.

Exodus 20:14

Adultery is living beyond God's provision for your life.

Living above my means is because of two reasons:

1. I am not content- buying things above our means we are saying to God- I am not content with you and I am not content with your provision for me.

I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content...

Philippians 4:11

Paul LEARNED to be content. I can learn to be content, whether I am now or not.

My contentment doesn't rest on my finances, it rests on my God.

2. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost...

Luke 14:28

I didn't count. – it's not rebellion, the math isn't mathing. Don't be afraid to ask for help!

8. Don't buy now and pay later

You must not steal.

Exodus 20:15

Spending money I don't have is like stealing from resources I haven't yet received.

God wired you to hope- delayed gratification- to work and wait for something, then the joy is overwhelming

For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. For why does one still hope for what he sees?

Romans 8:24

God doesn't mind when you experience joy using the processes He set up- He doesn't want us to experience grief because we circumvented His process.

9. Be a good witness

You must not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Exodus 20:16

God wants us to bear a true witness about His nature and character to our neighbors.

The way we handle our finances is a good witness or a bad witness to those around us.

It's not that we always have surplus and never have problems- it's how do we handle when these things happen

10. Be content

You must not covet...
Exodus 20:17

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.
Colossians 3:5

Coveting = greed

When I covet what my neighbors have, I make them an idol- because I'm trying to keep up with others
I make those I am comparing myself with my God- they begin to tell me when to spend
Don't let someone else spend your money.

CLOSING:

-Having all the ducks in a row means I have more than enough to be a blessing to others.

Have you ever come on anything quite like this extravagant generosity of God, this deep, deep wisdom? It's way over our heads. We'll never figure it out.

Is there anyone around who can explain God?

Anyone smart enough to tell him what to do?

Anyone who has done him such a huge favor
that God has to ask his advice?

Everything comes from him;

Everything happens through him;

Everything ends up in him.

Always glory! Always praise!

Yes. Yes. Yes.

Romans 11:33-36

-It's all His. Everything good comes from Him. If we can just remember that, there is nothing that's too much to bring to Him.

-Bring Him your life today if you haven't yet

-Come in gratefulness and thank Him for the opportunity to be a steward of His resources