

Life of Moses Study (November 15, 2020)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Exodus 20:1-7

NOTE: At Mt. Sinai, God is about to give His people the Ten Commandments. “The Commandments were not given to Israel in Egypt so that by observing them they might free themselves from the oppression they were subjected to there. Rather the Commandments were given to the people who had already experienced the LORD's salvation. They were delivered to them so that they would have guidance as to how they ought to conduct themselves, and so continue to enjoy the benefits he had provided for them and thus be capable of fulfilling the destiny the LORD intended for them, to be ‘a kingdom of priests and a holy nation’ (19:6)” (Exodus-A Mentor Commentary by John L. Mackay). This lesson focuses on the first three commandments, which are directed towards Israel's relationship with God.

1. In the Old Testament God typically spoke through prophets. What is different this time? What was the Israelite's response (Exodus 20:2, 18-19)? How do you think you would respond?

2. How does God defend His authority as the lawgiver (Exodus 20:2)? How does He remind them of His special covenant name (Exodus 6:2-3, 7)?

3. The first commandment given states, "you shall have no other gods before me." Is God threatened by other gods (Deuteronomy 4:35, 39; Psalm 86:10; Isaiah 44:6, 8; 1 Corinthians 8:4)? Justify your answer.

4. Describe some of the "other gods" people place before the Lord. What are the indicators that you are placing a god before the Lord?

5. What do you think is God's purpose for the second commandment regarding the prohibition to make a carved image or any likeness of anything created (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 40:18)?

6. What does the Lord mean and **not mean** in the statement "I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me" (Exodus 20:5-6; Deuteronomy 24:16)? Describe the ways parents' actions impact the next generations both negatively and positively.

7. **NOTE:** "The third commandment is directed not toward Yahweh's protection, but toward Israel's. Yahweh's name...must be honored, blessed, praised, celebrated, invoked, pronounced, and so shared. To treat Yahweh's name with disrespect is to treat His gift lightly, to undermine his power, to scorn his Presence, and to misrepresent to the family of humankind his very nature as "The One Who always Is [I AM WHO I AM]."
(Quote via John I. Durham, Exodus, from The NIV Life Application Commentary-Exodus by Peter Enns).

The third commandment makes clear that God's name is not to be taken in vain. What are ways you have observed God's name misused. What did Jesus teach about God's name (Matthew 6:9)?

8. Explain the logical progression you find in 1 John 4:19; John 14:15 and Matthew 22:36-40. How do you think obedience to the first three commandments impacts the obedience to the following seven commandments (Exodus 20:2-17)?"