

Reteaching/Study Guide from Lakeside's Online Worship
Sunday, February 21, 2021, Sermon by Dr. Greg Corbin, Senior Pastor
"The Exodus Files: The Ten Commandments" – Exodus 20:1-17

In the third month from the very day the Israelites left the land of Egypt, they came to the Sinai Wilderness. ²They traveled from Rephidim, came to the Sinai Wilderness, and camped in the wilderness.

Israel camped there in front of the mountain. ³Moses went up the mountain to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain: "This is what you must say to the house of Jacob and explain to the Israelites: ⁴'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now if you will carefully listen to me and keep my covenant, you will be my own possession out of all the peoples, although the whole earth is mine, ⁶and you will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation.' These are the words that you are to say to the Israelites." ⁷After Moses came back, he summoned the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. ⁸Then all the people responded together, "We will do all that the Lord has spoken." So Moses brought the people's words back to the Lord. ...

¹⁶On the third day, when morning came, there was thunder and lightning, a thick cloud on the mountain, and a very loud blast from a ram's horn, so that all the people in the camp shuddered. ¹⁷Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Mount Sinai was completely enveloped in smoke because the Lord came down on it in fire. Its smoke went up like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain shook violently. ¹⁹As the sound of the ram's horn grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him in the thunder. ... Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery. ³Do not have other gods besides me. ⁴Do not make an idol for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. ... ¹⁸When he finished speaking with Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the testimony, stone tablets inscribed by the finger of God.

----- Exodus 19:1-8, 16-19, 20:1-4, & 31:18 Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

After delivering His people from Egypt through the Passover and Red Sea events, God provided for them with water from a rock, with manna, and with quail for three months as they crossed through the wilderness and brought them through Moses leadership to Mount Sinai. There He appeared to them in such an awesome way that the mountain shook and the people were terrified by God's presence. The events at Mount Sinai include the centerpiece of the book of Exodus, the Ten Commandments, and unfold for the remainder of its chapters, culminating in the consecration of the tabernacle. Four hundred years removed from the patriarchs of Genesis, God met with His people, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and established His covenant with them. Through the Ten Commandments, He revealed Himself and the requirements of being His people, and He pointed to our deeper need for deliverance from sin and to His ultimate provision of that deliverance in Jesus, the one through whom all nations would be blessed.

The Ten Commandments reveal the CHARACTER OF GOD (Exodus 20:1-11). The Ten Commandments are first and foremost about God. Through them, God demonstrates His absolute sovereignty: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery. Do not have other gods besides me" (Exodus 20:2-3). He is not one god among the many worshipped in the polytheistic world of Exodus. He is the one and only God and is to be the singular object of worship of His people. He is holy; thus, His name and His creative action, highlighted by the Sabbath, are to be revered. In His holiness, He righteously holds people accountable for their sins,

but in His love, He demonstrates faithfulness and mercy to those who serve Him in accordance with His commands and character.

The Ten Commandments reveal OUR CHARACTER (Exodus 20:12-17). The Ten commandments next disclose the character God expects of His people. Beginning with the most basic relationships of parents and children and husbands and wives, God expects His people to act in a way that reflects His holiness, love, and faithfulness. Furthermore, they are to show respect for life and truth in their conduct toward others. These requirements, however, go beyond outward actions. The last commandment, “do not covet,” reflects the inward depth of character God requires of His people. Against the standards of the Ten Commandments, however, the conduct of God’s people at Sinai is shown to be sorely insufficient. Their actions with the Golden Calf flagrantly broke all God’s laws (Exodus 32). The Ten Commandments, in fact, are powerless to bring anyone to righteousness because no one is capable of perfectly keeping them. Their purpose, instead, is to reveal human sin and inability and to prepare us to receive the gift of God’s righteousness in Christ (Romans 3:19-26).

The Ten Commandments lead us to the SAVIOR (Galatians 3:21-25). God never intended the law as an end in itself. He intended it to reveal our sin and helplessness and to lead us to Jesus. In Galatians, Paul refers to the law as our guardian or tutor. The same word was used in the first century to refer to a slave or servant who had custody of a child until the child became an adult. The chief end of the law, therefore, is to prepare us to recognize our sin, repent, and receive God’s righteousness through faith in Christ.

To reflect further about the Ten Commandments and Christ’s application and fulfillment of them, read Matthew 5:1-48 and Galatians 3:1-4:7.

Questions/Actions for Reflection/Discussion/Application

- How is God’s character reflected in the Ten Commandments? What qualities strike you the most?
- Where do you fall short of God’s expectations as expressed in the Ten Commandments?
- Where are you in need of forgiveness? Forgiveness is available for you in Christ!

You’re in My Prayers,

Stacey