

THE TEN

COMMANDMENTS

THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

SERMON NOTES

Week 1 August 20, 2023

"No Other Gods"

Exodus 3:13-15; Exodus 20:2-3; Psalm 23:1;

Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Micah 6:8;

Matthew 6:24, 33, 22:37

I. Introduction

- A. The ten commandments are more than a set of _____, they are guideposts and guardrails to help us find the good and beautiful life that God intended.
- B. The 10 Commandments appear in _____ Chapter 20 and Deuteronomy Chapter 5.
- C. In the Methodist tradition the first commandment is "You shall have no other _____ before me."

II. No Other God But Yahweh

- A. Yahweh is God's _____ name.
- B. We need to redefine what we think about when we say _____.
- C. Many of our false gods are _____ from God that get misused.

III. Finding the Good and Beautiful Life

- A. Putting God _____ in our lives and allowing everything else to be subordinate to that puts everything right in our lives.
- B. Jesus never quoted the 1st commandment but Jesus _____ to us what the first commandment looks like.
- C. What becomes clear when you are faced with your own mortality is that your _____ matter the most.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *August 21-26, 2023*

INTRODUCTION

Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, the list of “thou-shalt-nots” found in the Bible. Jesus saw these commandments not as onerous burdens, but as guardrails to help us experience a good and beautiful life. Every “thou-shalt-not” points to a life-giving “thou shalt.” These ancient words were given by a loving God who longs to protect us from harm while pointing toward a deeply meaningful and joyful life.

Monday: Exodus 20:2-3, Exodus 3:11-15, 2 Kings 17:7-14

The Jewish and Christian faith in the Bible (and, later, the Muslim faith too) taught what we call “monotheism” - that is, that there is only one God. Remember, the Israelites had just left Egypt - a land that worshipped multiple “gods” of nature, in addition to their Pharaohs. How did this commandment reflect God’s effort to embed the principle that there is only one God for us to worship, rather than many “gods”?

Tuesday: Psalm 62:1-2, 5-8

The psalmist extended his thought after verse 8. Verse 10 listed destructive things unworthy of trust: “Don’t trust in violence; don’t set false hopes in robbery. When wealth bears fruit, don’t set your heart on it.” Verse 12 ended the psalm by listing the quality that makes God uniquely trustworthy: “faithful love comes from you, my Lord.” What makes God’s faithful love particularly important to you as you face all of life’s happy or unhappy developments?

Wednesday: Jeremiah 2:5-13, John 7:37-38

Pastor William Willimon wrote, “The Bible’s issue is invariably idolatry (‘Who is the god who is there?’) [In Jeremiah 2,] God accuses Israel of idolatry, or forsaking the Creator, who has steadfastly loved Israel. Forsaking that love, that ‘fountain of living water,’ people instead dig their own wells, seeking water that is self-derived.” How has committing yourself to the living God drawn you away from things that “aren’t really gods at all” that you might have followed?

Thursday: Matthew 4:8-11

Popularity, prosperity, prestige - all of us at times feel the inner drive to acquire the “kingdoms of the world and all their glory.” Hebrews 4:15 said Jesus “was tempted in every way that we are, except without sin.” Which “kingdoms of the world and their glory” have most tempted you to leave God’s kind of life? How can you, like Jesus, resist that temptation?

Friday: Matthew 6:19-24

Jesus knew our hearts. Pastor Rick Warren wrote, “Money has the greatest potential to replace God in your life. When Jesus is your Master, money serves you, but if money is your master, you become its slave. Wealth is certainly not a sin, but failing to use it for God’s glory is.” Have you ever faced the temptation to serve God on Sunday, but serve money the rest of the week? What steps have helped you to break money’s power to rule your life?

MOVING FORWARD

In the 21st century, a god is anything that is the central focus in our lives. Many of our false gods are gifts from God that get misused – like money, sex, and power. Putting God first in our lives and allowing everything else to be subordinate to that puts everything right in our lives. So, what’s at the center of your life? What drives you? If it is not God, we need to refocus.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) rules, B) Exodus, C) gods. IIA) personal, B) gods, IIC) gifts. IIIA) first, B) demonstrated, C) relationships.