

NO OTHER GODS

The Tender Commandments

Exodus 20:1-3

Ice Breaker: What is your favorite law on the planet?

BACKGROUND: God's people had seen the protection, provision, guidance and delivering power of God. It was a constant reminder of His love and presence. And yet they still grumbled and turned away. It's at this point that God speaks to His people and gives them the Ten Commandments.

THE BIG PICTURE: Keep God first.

DIGGING DEEPER:

READ EXODUS 20:1-3. As we open up Exodus 20, God Himself reminds His people one more time: Remember! I am your God who set you free! He gave the law to them **after** He set them free from bondage/slavery. Why is this reminder so significant? What was your life like before you met Jesus?

Paraphrase the first commandment in your own words: You shall have no other gods before Me.

How did Jesus validate the importance of this first commandment? (Read Matthew 22:35-39)

This commandment calls us to a single-hearted, single-minded, undivided loyalty, service, love, devotion and worship of the one true God — recognizing one God! Failure to obey this command is called idolatry. Why does God begin with this commandment? What is at the **heart** of this commandment? How does idolatry start in our hearts?

We were created to worship Him. How do we get this all topsy-turvy? What "false gods" do you find most appealing or tempting to worship? (Hint: What do you look to to bring fulfillment/contentment/happiness/security in your life?) How can we uncover these idols in our life and place God in the **center** of everything in our life? Why should we worship the One True God?

His heart on this command is seen throughout Scripture. Read the following and reflect on how you see His heart for you in His words.

- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Matthew 6:31-33
- Matthew 22:37

Why does He make such a point of having no other gods before Him? How do you see God's love and grace in this commandment?

CONCLUSION:

The greatest challenge in all of life is to keep Him first. Are you struggling with this? How can you recognize God as the true source of life, security and approval we desire? Remember: You have been set free to live free! (See Galatians 5:1) Keep HIM first!