

Building strong communities

Introduction May 28th '17

Questions for further study

In this series, we're going to be looking at the 10 commandments given by God to Israel after the Exodus from Egypt. We'll be exploring how these ancient, foundational laws apply into modern life.

Read Exodus 20:1-17

1. What do you think is the significance of how God introduces these commandments in verse 2?

In Deuteronomy, after 40 years of wandering in the desert because of their lack of faith in God, the people are ready to enter the land God will give them. Moses gives them a history lesson about God's dealings with them & repeats the 10 commandments & other laws. Read Deuteronomy 5:32 – 6:12.

How can we avoid the danger of forgetting what God has done for *us*?

Jesus quoted this passage in Deuteronomy. (Look up Matthew 22:34-40.) How does it challenge our view of the 10 commandments to think of obeying them as an expression of our love for God?

2. The 10 commandments & the other laws given at that time are often referred to as the "Mosaic covenant". God's purpose for Israel was that they would demonstrate what it meant to be God's people to the nations around them. Because of what Jesus achieved by dying on the cross for our sins & rising again, God's grace now extends to all who receive Jesus as their Lord & Saviour. How does Peter describe us, the church, in 2 Peter 2:9-12? How can *our* lives bring glory to God?

3. The 1st 2 commandments focus on the unique place we are to give God in our lives. "You shall have no other gods before me" & "You shall not make for yourself an idol". The Israelites had just come from Egypt, a land of many idols and many gods. God calls for their complete allegiance. When the Bible talks about "idolatry" it's meaning anything that takes the focus of our worship off God and puts it on something else. When anything is first in our lives, that's not God, it's an idol even if it's good - and God wants our hearts back.

Reflect back to the series "First things first" at the beginning of this year when we explored this issue of modern day idolatry. What did God challenge you about then, and, if so, what changes have you made?

Pray that as a church and as individuals we would honour God.

Pray for our nation – that many would turn to God and find the love & peace He offers.