

June 13, 2010

Day One – Recap of Ten Commandments – Lesson 2

When we think about God, we think about one thing. There are, of course, three persons, but God is really just one thing. There’s only one God. That’s usually not much of an issue for us. Even people who don’t really care much about God tend to think that there is only one of them.

The first five books of the Old Testament (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, or TORAH) were written at a time when the idea of one God wasn’t very popular. And, when I say they weren’t very popular, I mean that no one believed that. The idea that there is only one god and he (or she) ruled everything was a really radical idea for this part of the world at that time. A lot of things within the Torah are written as a defense for monotheism, or the belief that there is only one God.

I mentioned this because I think many times we can sort of roll the first and second commandments together as one. Idols and idolatry (the second commandment) have always been a temptation for men, but what are we supposed to do with the first commandment when everyone within 10,000 miles is a monotheist?

I don’t have much of an answer for that, actually, but I do think we can learn a few things from this commandment. The first is that God doesn’t mind calling you to do something which everyone else thinks is absurd. The Israelites stance for one God would have been as counter-cultural as anything you can imagine.

The first commandment is also presumably the most important, given its placement. There can be no doubt that God is all about himself. We all know this, but it needs constant reminder. We are humble because ultimately our being comes from another and we are dependent on Him. God is not humble. He can talk about Himself at length and its perfectly alright and He can ask anything of anyone at anytime. That’s just part of being the greatest thing in the universe.

I hope that you’re enjoying the original “Sermon on the Mount.” I prefer the newer version, but I have also come to love the first one.

Day Two – Read Exodus 20:4-6

What kinds of things are “in heaven above”?

What kinds of things are “in the earth beneath”?

What kinds of things are “in the water under the earth”?

What does it mean in our hearts when we bow down to something or someone and serve it or him?

Can you “bow down or serve” something in your heart without physically bending your knees? Explain.

Day Three – Read Psalm 115:1-9

What are idols like? Describe them.

How is the God of Israel different from idols? (See especially verses 3 and 9.) What is God like? (Note: Although idols can be seen, they have no life. God cannot be seen, but He lives and works His purposes.)

Who makes idols? Who made God? What does this tell you about the greatness of idols and the greatness of God?

Does God see and speak and smell and hear and feel and walk?

Day Four – Read Isaiah 44:9-20

What does this passage tell you about man?

What does this passage tell you about the foolishness of worshipping anything made by man?

Why does man act so foolishly? (See verse 18.)

Read-Romans 9:19-21.

Who does this passage say is in charge?

Who hardens the hearts of men (and shuts their eyes, as in Isaiah 44:18)?

Why does God have the right to be in charge?

Is this hard to accept? Explain that this is hard for us to accept because the heart of man is darkened and wants to be in control. Man wants to be God instead of accepting that God is God.

Day Five – Read Colossians 1:15, 2:9, and John 14:8-9

There is only one physical representation of God. Who is it?

What did Jesus mean when He said that if anyone saw Him, he saw the Father?

How does Jesus compare with idols that can't see, hear, walk, or talk?

Jesus showed us what the Father is like. What can we know about the Father by looking at Jesus?