

## Day One – Recap of Ten Commandments: Lesson 3

I feel inadequate to perform my normal duty today, as I could add nothing to the sermon. Perhaps Jared intentionally preached his best sermon ever just to persuade us to stay in Texarkana...

When I see a command within Scripture, I usually try to figure out why God thought it was important to give it. I also try to discern what the command can tell me about myself. It's often an exercise in futility, either because I just can't figure it out or because it's just one of those God things. Nevertheless I think it is a worthwhile effort because it can offer a lot of insight into our spiritual lives.

So...why is God so concerned about us making images of Him and why do we want to? This will hardly be exhaustive but I think we can learn a few things from the command.

1. God is really, really specific about worship. We don't hear this much and we definitely don't act like it most of the time, but God is serious about our worship. He wants it to be done to Him and Him alone and to Him alone in His way. God is actually more specific about many things in our world than we often realize or want to realize. Specificity=holiness. It's not that God is just being "picky" or something, but instead that He *must* place parameters on our worship.
2. Our desire to break the second commandment is ultimately a combination of a lack of faith and a desire for self-rule...which may actually be the same thing anyway. When we adopt something as a substitute for God because we need to be able to feel/see/smell it, it is because we do not have sufficient faith. Part of the struggle of belief in God is the fact that you actually have to look *past* your senses in order to see Him. As for self-rule, I believe Jared covered that much better than I could...particularly when we bent down to "pet" his idol. We love to create idols because we can control them.

## Day Two – Read Exodus 20:7

What does it mean to take God's name "in vain"?

What does it mean that God will not "hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain"?

## Day Three – Read Exodus 6:1-9

How many times does God say in this passage, "I am the LORD"? Why does He say it so many times?

What promises did God make to the Hebrews?

Can promises of One named the LORD be trusted? Why?

Did the Hebrews trust in the name of the LORD? How do you know this?

## **Day Four – Read Exodus 7:1-5**

Who hardened Pharaoh's heart? Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart?

Why did God "multiply His signs and wonders" in the land of Egypt?

Read Exodus 10:1-2.

Who hardened Pharaoh's heart?

Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart?

Why did God want the Hebrews to tell their children and their grandchildren what He had done?

What did the LORD reveal about Himself by the signs and wonders He did in Egypt?

When God gave Israel the Third Commandment, He had already proved the greatness of His name; He had already shown that His name should be honored. Was it for lack of information about God (because they didn't know about God's great name) that Israel could not keep the Third Commandment?

Is it for lack of information about God that we cannot keep the Third Commandment?

What makes it difficult for you to trust in the name of the LORD?

## **Day Five – Read Leviticus 1:2-3, Malachi 1:6-14**

What kind of offering were the Israelites to bring to God? Why do you think that the animal had to be “without blemish”? What does this say about God?

Why was God angry with the priests?

How did the priests “profane” God’s name?

Why did bringing the wrong kind of offering profane God’s name? What does this show about the priest’s heart attitude toward God?

Will God allow His name to be profaned? Will God hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain?

## **Day Six – Read 1 Samuel 17:19-49**

Why was David indignant toward Goliath? (Why was David offended by Goliath? See verse 26.) What did this show about David’s attitude toward God’s name?

Where was David placing his confidence? How do you know that?

How did David approach Goliath? (See verse 45.) What was David saying when he told Goliath that he was coming “in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel”?

Why was David fighting against Goliath? (See verses 46-47.)

How did David’s actions show that he honored the name of the LORD?

How do the acts of God show that we can honor and trust in His name?