04. THE IDOL

• Decalogue: words, not commands! A word within a relationship.

• The basis of laws is gratitude! You can't trust/obey a stranger!

• Do you have GOD'S EXPERIENCE? Job has God’s experience! He has seen God and not only heard about God. CAN you question/doubt your experience of God? I'm a Catholic = a good boy, I make the sign of cross, I have a priest aunt/uncle. My grandfather and the statues of saints (comunism). Does our faith resist encountering absurdity and pain? Why to me? (last sharing of the group...you meet God in your weekness/left arm/fratility)

• We read: Exodus 20, 1-5b: what is it about? • I have never met atheists in my life! Who do not believe in a transcendent god yes.

• (sharing time....) the idols of our society according to you. We list them and we share

* What is a god? Someone/something on which you base your life, your center. The law of universal gravity requires a point of support. Something that guarantees you an understanding.

• Exodus 20,1-5b. Three stages: don't make idols, don't worship him, don't give him any respect. Progress

• How does an idol work? A childish example: Maria with the mobile.

School: the phone of her friend. (she saw and felt less than)

School: sadness and hate agains her parents. (she thought and felt anger )

School: other friends has much better things than me and i cannot live without more and more. (she became dependend/slave)

She went through three stages: she made an image (when I will have a mobile phone – happy life); she adored it, (she sacrificed everything for it/relation with parents), she organized her life for this purpose, she ended up a slave to the idol because she could no longer live without it. It's never enough!! The chain of needs grows more and more

• 1st stage: “you shall not make an image” My life changes if I gain this object/state. It becomes a FIXATION! Also can happen for something positive..

• Car, smart man, respect/good manners in group (hashash), boy/girlfriend, Marriage, house/children, ring for wife, physical appearance. Car keys (for men)... leadership roles,

• Idol=projection of my ego that is exalted through an object\project. My happiness depends on it

• 2nd stage: “you shall not bow down to them”. Idols need worship, rituals: sacrifice. (children – career: work-no children; beauty-operations; fame-competition-innocence; money-life; pleasure-loneliness; girl-possession/ jealousy/ extreme reactions. The idol demands blood-life;

* 3rd stage: “you shall not serve them”. Idols enslave! They promiss life (you will be happy) but you find yourself waiting for happiness that is never fulfilled (a deep emptiness. They take life

• Every age has its idols. Your story=the story of our idols. Buber: Man is a constant maker of idols. Without consciousness!!! The problem is the fixation, not the object.

• The idol demands the death of your real life, in the name of the life you will have thanks to him. Disappointment! Publicity. Nothing is as it should be! You are no longer satisfied with your life.

• I talk about you, not about others. Have you ever been disappointed? Before the delusion there is the illusion (idol=illusion=lie/see)

• Disappointment is positive: it is the moment of awakening, of contact with reality. You hate disappointments, you should rather hate your lies that are idols. You have absolutized something smaller than you.

• Life is not found in idols, they live because you give them life and importance. Idols are false and deceptive, but they have the ability to convince you that your life is wrong

• Your life is not wrong! The idols have deceived you! Hope is in vain! Not your life!!!

• Who knows how to live? Who is able to live in the life he has now, who does not live in the life to come.

• Do you know why we have not known the living and true God? Because we were busy with idols. God is found in things that happen, now - not in things that will happen.