

Am I a sinner?

Exodus 20:1-17

Matthew 5:21-30

Q) Have you ever committed a crime?

R

Whether or not we've broken humans' laws, we are held also to God's standards. In exodus, Moses receives the 10 commandments from the Lord at the top of Mt. Sinai with the instructions to share them with God's people. Let's read Exodus 20:1-17.

Exodus 20:1-17.

Q) Now if we ask again, have you ever committed a crime?

R

Let's breakdown it down and start by having a look at verse 3.

"You shall have no other gods before me"

Q) Why does demand we only worship him?

R (the one and only God. And since I am the only God, I refuse to share my worship with anyone or anything else." God is not to be rivalled with anything, because there is nothing that can truly compare to an almighty, sovereign, omniscient, all-powerful God.)

'Before me' can mean 'in addition to', after everything that God had brought the Israelites through, perhaps there was less change of God being discarded but instead was prohibiting having other Gods being worshiped alongside him.

Q) Do you ever worship another God besides Yahweh?

R

Pride is mentioned throughout the bible 58 times. It is important to God. Pride can lead us to make ourselves into a GOD, and place ourselves alongside if not above God in our lives.

Let's have a look at verse 4-6

"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Q) Is there anything in your life that you make an idol of?

R

Q) Why do you think God did not want even himself made into an image to be worshipped?

R

Moses makes it clear in Deuteronomy that children are not punished for the sins of their parents. So how do we make sense of this verse? God is explaining how the disobedience of one generation a deep and prolonged effect on generations of Israelites has growing up in an Israel that has forgotten god.

Now number 3, verse 7:

"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."

Q) In what ways do you think we can take Gods name in vain?

- 1) By hypocrisy, making profession of God's name, but not living up to that profession.
- 2) By covenant breaking. If we make promises to God, and perform not to the Lord our vows, we take his name in vain.
- 3) By rash swearing, mentioning the name of God, or any of his attributes, in the form of an oath.
- 4) By false swearing, which some think is chiefly intended in the letter of the commandment – perjury.
- 5) By using the name of God lightly and carelessly.

Onwards my friends. Lets look at verse 8-11:

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labour and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy"

This is the only commandment, which is not repeated in the new testament, in fact it is nullified in Colossians 2:16.

"Therefore, do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ."

Commandment 4 is no longer a law for us to keep but instead a promise we're invited to enjoy.

Q) What is the significance of keeping the sabbath free from work?

R

- 1) It reminds of how our powerful God created the universe in 6 days and took a day to rest
- 2) It provides a time to rest
- 3) Allows us to focus on him and worship him
- 4) It gives a taste of the future rest that will be found in glory.

Next week will we come back to the rest of the commandments but now let's look at what to do now that we know we are guilty of breaking Gods law.

Q) Why does there need to be a punishment for our sin?

R

- 1) "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice" – Deut 32:4  
God embody justice, he cannot allow evil to go unpunished. Just like it is right for a human judge to sentence a man who has broken the law, Gods justice require him to see evil punished.
- 2) "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. " – Habakkuk 1:13  
  
In order for us to enter into Gods presence our sins must be atoned for because Gods perfect holiness cannot tolerate evil.

In Romans 6:23 it says "the wages of sin are death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord"

Q) What should our response to our sin be?

R

Gods holiness and just nature require a punishment for evil we've committed. Gods love and mercy led him to the cross where he died to take the penalty for your sin so that if you accept him as Lord and saviour you can be forgiven and accepted into eternal life with him.

Now lets take some time to thank him for this sacrifice and pray for one another needs.