**BCM Bible Study: November 18/19, 2020**

**Exodus 20: 1 – 21: The 10 Commandments**

**Read Exodus 20:1-2**

* Why does God begin with the statement in v. 2? What is its purpose?
* Why should we also remind ourselves of what God has done in our lives?
* How have you seen God reveal himself in your life?

**Read Exodus 20: 3-17**

* Why does the first commandment say “no other gods” as opposed to saying there is only one god? Does that imply that there are in fact, other gods?
* What does it mean in v. 5 that God is “a jealous God”? How does this affect God’s love?
  + How have you seen your own disobedience come back to bite you?
* **Read Exodus 31:12-17**
  + Why does God use such harsh language here regarding the Sabbath?
  + Adam Mabry says in *The Art of Rest* that, “Constant work turns human beings into human doings.” How have you come to define your life by the work that you do?
* What do the first four commandments tell us about the character of God?
* **Read Deuteronomy 6:10-19**
* It can be easy for us to distance ourselves from these commands as there is an inherently cultural aspect to them. In what ways do they still apply? (We still build idols i.e.)
  + What should the balance for us as followers of Jesus be between faith and obedience then? (Romans 5:19, 6:16 as potential references)

If Israel is to be a nation of light, full of priests (Exodus 19:6) then they must be different and what better way then by having the character of God?

* **Read Ephesians 6:1-4.** Paul here references the fifth commandment.
  + Do you struggle to understand God when he calls for obedience?
  + How does this command in the context of a parental relationship help/hurt that?
* Does the lack of definition in some of these commandments bother you?
  + Why do you think God would deliver these broad commandments to all the Israelites? Is that helpful?
* What do we learn about God’s character from looking at all 10 commandments?

**Read Exodus 20:18-21**

* How does the 10 commandments being delivered by the presence of God in v. 18 change or affect the understanding that you have of them?
* As a note, in v. 20 many versions say “test”, however, this is not an accurate understanding of the Hebrew. Instead, “train” is probably better suited to describe this. So, God hopes for the people to experience and know his full glory and power.
* Verse 19 describes a very visceral reaction from the Israelites about this experience with God. Is this surprising to you? Does it make Israel’s future any easier or harder to understand?
* Contrast this with the reaction of Moses in v.21. Is it easier for you to react to God like the Israelites or like Moses?

For many this also might bring to mind Jesus ‘explanation of the commandments. **Read Luke 10:25-29**.

* Which part of the command to love God in v.27 is it easiest for you to do? Which part is the hardest?
  + What can you do to cultivate this area of your relationship with God?
* Where in your life do you try to narrow down the reach of God asking for your obedience? (Like the expert’s question in v. 29)
  + How can we work to overcome this?

**Challenge this week:**

Spend some time working on the part of loving God that is most difficult for you. (Heart, soul, mind, and strength)

Heart – pray your emotions to God (positive and negative ones); work on contentment; etc.

Soul – finding the day’s satisfaction in God, read a Psalm (63 for instance); etc.

Mind – listen to some sermons; find engaging, thoughtful Christian articles; etc.

Strength – obey God’s word; serve someone; etc.