



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - September 4, 2011

Sermon

10 Commandments:

"The Second Commandment"

Exodus 20:4-6

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember about this sermon...

Monday 9/5/11

Exodus 20:1

The Second Commandment: You shall not make for yourself a graven image." The problem in Moses day was that surrounding nations worshipped gods of all sorts. Many of these gods were worshipped by creating golden statues or images that were made in honor of the god being worshipped. In the meantime, Israel's God was a jealous God who could not be seen. In fact, it was stated that if a human being saw the face of God, he or she would not live to tell about it! Many people are visual and like images of one kind or another to lift up and even worship. God says in this commandment that we must not do this.

Tuesday 9/6/11

Exodus 20:4

We encounter a warning here from God: God is a jealous God and will visit iniquity on the 3rd and 4th generations of those who hate God! Wow, do you still want to hate God now? Not only is God jealous, but God is also a vengeful God and will punish us if we hate God. This perspective on God is not preached about or talked about much these days. How does the perspective of God make you feel?

Wednesday 9/7/11

Exodus 20:4

There is also a word of encouragement here in this verse for those who keep God's commandments--God will show steadfast love to those who obey. Remember that great hymn, "Trust and Obey?" "Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." Are you trusting in the Lord? Are you keeping the commandments? If so, you will receive steadfast love from Almighty God. This is a great promise!



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

Who is my idol?

When has one of my idols let me down?

What other idols are around me and my community?

Thursday 9/8/11
Deuteronomy 4:15-20

These verses in Deuteronomy explain in a little more detail what God means by this second commandment. The problem was the forms, figures, or images that people worshiped rather than worshipping God. People identify with things they can see rather than things they cannot see. They couldn't see God so they were tempted to worship the things they could see. Are we any different today? How many of us are visual people? And yet, God, who is invisible, is the only One we should worship.

Friday 9/9/11
Leviticus 26:1-2

God is clear: no idols and no images. Some believers take this very literal and in some churches you will not even see stained glass windows because of how they interpret this second commandment. Is having a picture of Jesus in your home or in the church breaking this commandment? I do not think so, as long as we are not worshipping the image. We worship Jesus not his picture. After all, what did he actually look like? It is when an image becomes the source of our worship that we have a problem. But we must be careful.

Saturday 9/10/11
Daniel 3:1-12

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue and ordered everyone to bow down and worship it whenever they heard the sound of the horn. Three men, Shadrach Meshach, and Abendigo refused to do so because they were Jews and worshiped God. What would you do if you were forced to do something you didn't believe? These three men were punished for refusing to bow down to the statue. They were thrown into the fiery furnace? How strong are your beliefs? What are you not willing to do?