



January 21, 2024 - Moses/10 Commandments – Epiphany of Change

Well, that's the way it's always been. Ever heard those words? Ever said those words? If we're honest the answer to both those questions for all of us is most likely – yes. As humans we don't really like change unless we instigate it. But God is a God of change. While God is stable – the world God creates is constantly changing and if we look deep enough, we can see the reason why. Join us this weekend as we let part of Moses' story open us to the epiphany of change.

Scripture:

Psalms 19:7-11, 14 NLT The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living. ⁹Reverence for the Lord is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the Lord are true; each one is fair. ¹⁰They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb. ¹¹They are a warning to your servant, a great reward for those who obey them... May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Exodus 19:1-6, 20:1-17 NLT Exactly two months after the Israelites left Egypt, they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai. ²After breaking camp at Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and set up camp there at the base of Mount Sinai. ³Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The Lord called to him from the mountain and said, "Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: ⁴'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. ⁶And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel."... Then God gave the people all these instructions:

²"I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. ³"You must not have any other god but me. ⁴"You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. ⁵You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. ⁶But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands. ⁷"You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name. ⁸"Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹You have six days each week for your ordinary work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy. ¹²"Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³"You must not murder. ¹⁴"You must not commit adultery. ¹⁵"You must not steal. ¹⁶"You must not testify falsely against your neighbor. ¹⁷"You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."

Questions:

- When you think about the 10 Commandments – do you think of them more in the "I must do these things" realm...or do you see them as ways to relationship with God and others? What makes you say what you say?
- How might your view of the 10 Commandments change if you saw them as the "guardrails for living" instead of "things I have to do"?
- When the 10 Commandments were given, it changed the lives of the Israelites. God was making relationship with God's self, and with others important – not just blind devotion. What might God be trying to change today in your own life that would allow you to better live into relationship with God and others?

Reading for the Week:

Monday: Micah 6:8
Thursday: 1 Timothy 2:3-4

Tuesday: Deuteronomy 6:5
Friday: Proverbs 3:5-6

Wednesday: Isaiah 43:1-7