

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes. (v8)

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully & act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, & teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Exodus 20:1-17 *note: Commandment # added in brackets*

¹God spoke all these words: ²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³[1] you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol...for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third & the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁵but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me & keep my commandments. ⁷[2] You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸[3] Remember the sabbath day, & keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor & do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work... the Lord blessed the sabbath day & consecrated it. ¹²[4] Honor your father & your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³[5] You shall not murder. ¹⁴[6] You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵[7] You shall not steal. ¹⁶[8] You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷[9] You shall not covet your neighbor's house; [10] you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. It's been said that if we could keep the First Commandment (or first three), then we wouldn't need the others. Christians & Jews (& Muslims) are radically & strictly monotheist (*Genesis 9:6; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalms 20:7, 33:16-17, 115:4-8, 135:15-18, 146:3-4; Isaiah 44:9-20, 46:1-7; Acts 15:28-29; Romans 1:18-22, 16:18; 1 Corinthians 10:14-22; Philipians 3:18-19*). How does this give St. Paul the standing to assert that all have sinned & fallen short & that a righteousness apart from the law is needed for all? See *Matthew 3:7-10; John 8:31-47; Romans 3:9-31, 5:12, 6:6-23, 16:25-27; Philipians 3:9; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*
2. What connections do you find between the Exodus & 1 Corinthians readings? How do the 10 Commandments show God's wisdom & our foolishness? *Romans 1:16-17; Ephesians 6:2-3*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Learn the 10 Commandments, verbatim & in order this week. *Here's a hint to help keep the ideas straight: no other, name, sabbath; parents; murder; adultery; steal, gossip, spouse; house*
4. Historically the 10 Commandments have served us to reflect quietly on one's own behavior to shine God's light into our darkness (*1 Peter 2:9*). Here's a classic model for that created by Rev. Edward Naumann < bit.ly/3kOZ7tk > (your Small Catechism may include another). Try it 3x this week & take what you find in your life to Confession & Absolution on Sunday. See SC: *Confession/Office of the Keys*,

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Different strokes for different folks, as they say. How would you explain your scruples about certain behavior not shared by others? How can the SC help you explain what difference keeping the 10 Commandments makes in your everyday life? See *1 Peter 3:15*
6. Of late it's become popular for left-leaning Christians to criticize traditional, historical, biblical teachings by asking, "does this theology do harm?" It assumes that harm refers to one's feelings of self-affirmation, approval, & acceptance. How do the Commandments help us toward the goal of loving God and neighbor (*Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:28-33*)? Pick 4 or 5 and read about them in the Large Catechism. See *Romans 12:3; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 John 4:19-21* SC, LC available <bookofconcord.org>

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Third Sunday in Lent

03.07.21

Series: God Keeps His Promises

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Promise of Righteousness

*It looks foolish to be righteous as God defines it
or to think it makes a difference*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: God spoke all these words: ...I the Lord your God am a jealous
God, ...showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation
of those who love me & keep my commandments. (*v1, 5b, 6*)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

We proclaim Christ crucified, the power of God
and the wisdom of God. (*1 Corinthians 1:23, 24*)

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