

Answers to Sermon Notes

The Ten Words: The First Word

Deuteronomy 5:6-7

6/19/22

1. Having begun our series last week with both an introduction **to** the Ten Commandments and a look at the introduction **of** the Ten Commandments (vs. 6), we move on today to look at the **first** commandment.
 - a. “You shall have **no other gods** before me.”
2. But, before we engage the commandment, let’s recall:
 - a. That the Ten Commandments are of two **tables** of **content**.
 - i. Our relationship to the **LORD** (1-4)
 - ii. Our relationship to **others** (5-10)
 - b. That they are **comprehensive** in scope.
 - i. Covering **every** aspect of each relationship
 - ii. In **summary**
3. A **series** on the Ten Commandments, then, is actually made up of two **mini-series**.
 - a. With **every** aspect of our relationship to the LORD **covered** in 4 commandments.
 - b. And **every** aspect of our relationship to others **covered** in 6 commandments.
4. As we look at the first commandment, then, we want to look at it more specifically as the **first** of **4**, rather than the **first** of **10**.
 - a. These commandments **cover** our relationship to the LORD under these four **headings**:
 - i. Our **Embrace** of the LORD
 - ii. Our **Worship** of the LORD
 - iii. Our **Mention** of the LORD
 - iv. Our **Rest** in the LORD
5. The first commandment begins the first **table** of the law by calling us to a fundamental **Embrace** of the LORD as **God**.
 - a. I want to break this up in two pieces:
 - i. **Why** the language of embrace?
 - ii. **What** is meant by God?
6. Why the language of **embrace**?
 - a. Because this language underscores the **marital imagery** of this relationship. (Ez. 16:1-8, Jer. 31:31-3)
 - i. This is not a **business** transaction.
 - ii. The LORD has **set** his **heart** (his **love**) on us – **each** one.
 - i. Again, the “**you**” is **singular**.
 - b. This **marital** imagery helps us understand what the LORD **desires** from us.
 - i. **Eagerness**
 - i. Based upon what he had **already done** for them, as expressed in the introduction.
 - ii. **Willing lovers** of God
 1. Not forced or **coerced**, but **free** and full.
 2. He had **chosen** them...to love him **freely**.

- i. The importance of **Irresistible Grace**.
 - ii. **Exclusivity**
 - i. No **other** gods *before him* means no **other** gods.
 - ii. **Monotheism** (Isaiah 45:4-6, I Kings 18:21, 36-40)
 - 1. Not **polytheism**
 - 2. Nor **atheism**
 - 3. Nor **agnosticism**
 - iii. **Enthronement**
 - i. **Humbly** taking our **place** in this relationship and **giving** him his.
 - 1. **Faith, trust, obedience**, etc.
 - 2. Though this is a relationship of **love**, it is not a relationship of **equals**.
 - i. There remains a **holy fear** of the LORD.
 - ii. Though this is the **first** commandment, it will not be the **last**.
 - 1. The LORD must first establish this **eager**, exclusive enthronement, that through it he may form a **people** for himself in this world.
 - 2. Having embraced the LORD, we respond with great **sensitivity** to his **word**. (Isaiah 66:2b)
7. What is meant by **God**?
- a. For the LORD to be, “God to us,” we must **look** to him **exclusively** for three things:
 - i. **Protection**
 - i. Based upon the **deliverance** he has already won for us. (vs. 6)
 - ii. Such that we will not **fear** the **enemy**. (Daniel 3:16-18, Matthew 10:26-31)
 - iii. Nor trust in the **weapons** of this world. (Psalm 20:7)
 - 1. Though he may call us to **action**.
 - ii. **Direction**
 - i. Leading us into the **unknown**.
 - 1. Guiding us by his **word** and **Spirit**. (Psalm 32:8)
 - ii. Such that we seek no **hidden** information.
 - 1. from other **prophets**, spirits, or **diviners**.
 - 2. Nor **reject** anything he has said. (vs. 32-33)
 - iii. **Provision**
 - i. He will always give us our **daily bread**. (Psalm 37:25)
 - 1. As we **seek** him first. (Matthew 6:33)
 - ii. Giving us all that we need for **life** and **godliness**.
8. And all these things are beautifully summarized for us by **David** in that embracing the LORD as our God means embracing the LORD as our **Shepherd**.
- i. **Psalms 23**
9. Have you **embraced** (with Eagerness, Exclusivity, and Enthronement) the LORD as your God (for Protection, Direction, and Provision)?
- a. This is where the **Ten Words** begin.
 - b. This is where **life** and **peace** begin.