

Out of Egypt's Shadow...

Introduction

The Israelites are encamped at the foot of Mt. Sinai. On the cloud covered summit Moses is in deep conversation with the Lord. What will come will be one of the most famous lists of all time. It's time for the Israelites to leave their slavery past behind them, but who will they be? Who will they become? What new identity will be forged in the wilderness?

Discussion Questions

1. What insights caught your attention in this week's sermon?
2. What is one of the favorite rules in your family? Do you know when it started?
3. What is one of the hardest rules for you to follow? Why do you think it's such a challenge?
4. The Ten Commandments are one of the famous writings in world history. When did you first become aware of them? Did you ever have to memorize them?
5. We often think about them as simply rules, the basis for law and order, but something more is going on here. In them the Lord is forming their new identity. No longer will they be Egypt's slaves, but now they'll be God's people. What are some old identities that are challenging to let go? What words have people used to demean or hurt us, that we still carry?
6. In the Ten Commandments, God is calling the Israelites to leave their past behind and embrace a new future. It begins with their relationship with God. How should they honor God? Which of these first commandments have you found a challenge?
7. After addressing their relationship with God, the Ten Commandments deal with our relationships with others. How would you summarize them?
8. If you could, is there a commandment that you would add to this list?
9. When asked what is the greatest commandment, Jesus replies, Love God completely and love your neighbor as yourself. How does this ethic guide your daily living?

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Travel Pack (a few items to help you this week)

Head (memory verse): "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." – Exodus 20:2

Hands (acts of faith): Commit to an act of justice this week that will help one of your neighbors.

Heart (prayer): Pray the Ten Commandments. Meditate on them, asking God to give you insights on how you may grow on your Disciple's Path through living in a more just way.