



I
NO
OTHER
GODS

Exodus 20:2-3

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me.”

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Exodus 20:1-3; Deuteronomy 6:1-5; Matthew 22:34-40.
2. Why does the God of the Bible elevate Himself above all others?
3. What is the difference between the God of the Bible and other gods?
4. What are some of the characteristics of the God of the Bible?
5. Why did Jesus consider this to be the greatest of all the commandments?
6. How does your life reflect God's supremacy?

DAY 1 - NO OTHER GODS

Our God Who Cares

Isaiah 40:21-31

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us...For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous [significant] fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like.”¹

I love this passage of Scripture. It is comforting for me to know that the God of Heaven is my Heavenly Father (Matthew 6:9), and though He sits above the earth and holds all things in His hands (Isaiah 40:22), He knows my name (John 10:3), He knows the number of my days (Psalm 139:16), and has a plan for each of them (Jeremiah 29:11-14).

So when I am stuck, when I am walking through a dark valley, when it seems that the Lord is far away, I remind myself of the absolute truth, that my God, our God, does not sleep, has not become weary, and He has not forgotten me. Instead, He is calling me to wait upon Him, to trust in Him, knowing He is more than able to give me His strength, His peace, and courage.

Application: What are you facing today or this week that is challenging you? Reread this passage of Scripture and make it your own personal prayer to your Heavenly Father. Where you are at today, is not hidden from the Father!

¹ A. W. Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy, (New York: HarperCollins, 1978), 1.

REFLECT

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DAY 2 - NO OTHER GODS

Holy, Holy, Holy

Isaiah 6:3 / Revelation 4:8

“Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD God Almighty.”

This is the antiphony of praise the angels in heaven unceasingly declare day and night in worship to God. The three-fold repetition of Holy, Holy, Holy, is a form of emphasis to the superlative degree. This emphasis is not used of any of God’s other attributes. Holiness is the one attribute that most fully describes all that God is.

A. W. Tozer, a great scholar and pastor of the last century, now deceased, described God’s holiness with these words, “Holy is the way God is. To be holy he does not conform to a standard. He is that standard. He is absolutely holy with an infinite, incomprehensible fullness of purity that is incapable of being other than it is. Because he is holy, all his attributes are holy; that is, whatever we think of as belonging to God must be thought of as holy.”

God’s holiness means He is infinitely perfect and completely without sin. All His ways, His judgements, His actions, His decisions, His will, His justice, His love, His wrath, His plans, and His purposes are always holy. All God is and all He does is holy!

Because God is Holy, He calls you to live a life that is holy!

“You also be holy in all your conduct, since it written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” (1 Peter 1:15-16, ESV)

Application: What step would God want you to take today to live a more holy life?

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

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DAY 3 - NO OTHER GODS

Letting Go Of Control

Isaiah 26:4 / Matthew 27:43

In a world that seems so insane and chaotic I have tried to control my environment and those around me. As an athlete growing up, I loved the idea and felt comfortable with traditions and even superstitions. If I did certain things before a game, then I would play well. If I drank my Sunny Delight at 3:30 pm before my game at 7 pm, then I would play well. Or if I didn't wash my shirt then somehow that would give me the power to do what I needed to do to play well that next football game. Or, if I control the way others act then I'm doing a good thing.

The more that I thought about it the more I realized that I was trying to play God. I would have never thought of it like this before but now I see that I am not trusting in God and accepting this world as it is. I would try to control others like my family. I have come to realize that I can't control anyone and when I do, I play God. When I behave like this, I am basically saying that I know better than God and am playing God in their lives. If I keep saving others, then God never gets that opportunity to save them.

Application: What are some ways that you try to play God in other people's lives?

REFLECT

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DAY 4 - NO OTHER GODS

His Enduring Love

James 1:2

(The anecdote below centers on a particularly challenging summer for me and the valley heat just made it more vexing. During that summer the Lord, through prayer, reminded me of James 1:2 and I prayed to the Lord to help me find the joy.)

While it's true, summer does bring the heat, summer also brings farm peaches. One of my great summer joys is a freshly picked peach. I learned that a fresh, sweet peach not only needs, but thrives on, the searing sun rays to soften and sweeten up a peach's insides. As I prayed for joy and took a bite of a peach, I tumbled around this thought in my prayers... Could the heat of frustration actually turn my insides sweet instead of bitter? I found that with some time and consistent prayer, I was indeed finding joy in the most unexpected places.

Application: "Lord, you are powerful, just and mighty. There is no God like You. At the same time, you are full of mercy and abounding in love. With that in mind, I will seek You first as I walk in faith. Help me remember that in times of flourishing and times of challenge, may my joy be found in You."

REFLECT

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DAY 5 - NO OTHER GODS

God's Faithfulness

Lamentations 3:22-23

It is easy, as we look around at all that is happening in our world, to realize things are not getting better. We, and all Creation, are groaning from the pain we see everywhere around us (Romans 8:22-23). It is becoming more and more difficult to find examples of true faithfulness as we become more and more angry, divided and, yes, selfish. Who really deserves a God who is faithful? Well, the truth is clear, no one. *"There is no one righteous, not even one"* (Romans 3:10). Thank God that He is faithful to those He has chosen.

For me, when I find myself getting cynical or fearful, it only takes a precursory look back at my life to see the only example I need. Through all the ups and downs of life, even when I denied His existence, or when I let Him down today, I can see only His perfect model of faithfulness in my life.

So, today when I look at the wars, I remember His faithfulness. When I look at the riots, I remember His faithfulness. When I look at the sickness and dying, I remember His faithfulness. When I look at my inability to live up to His perfection, I remember His faithfulness and whenever I do, my heart softens as His Spirit reminds me "Yes, my son, great is My faithfulness, you have nothing to fear."

Application: What are some of the ways God has been faithful to you? As you look at your present anxieties and fears, how might His faithfulness encourage you to move forward through those fears?

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