

NOTHING BETWEEN YOU AND GOD

TEXT: (Exodus 20:4-6, KJV)

⁴ Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness *of any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth: ⁵ Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me; ⁶ And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

INTRODUCTION

1. "You must not make for yourselves an idol that looks like anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the water below the land. You must not worship or serve any idol, because I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God" (Exodus 20:4-5, NCV).
2. "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them" (Exodus 20:5, KJV).

I. GOD IS A SPIRIT

A. The Omniscience of God

1. "Our Lord is great and very powerful. There is no limit to what he knows" (Psalm 147:5, NCV).
2. "You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely" (Psalm 139:2-4, NIV).
3. "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matthew 10:29-30, NIV).
4. "For your ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all your paths" (Proverbs 5:21, NIV).

B. The Omnipresence of God

1. "Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? ...Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD" (Jeremiah 23:23-24, KJV).
2. "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you" (Psalm 139:7-12, NIV).

C. The Omnipotence of God

1. "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light" (Genesis 1:3, NIV).
2. "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted" (Job 42:2, NIV).
4. "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth" (Revelation 19:6, NIV).

II. BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT

1. “For we live by faith, not by sight” (II Corinthians 5:7, NIV).
2. “With whom, then, will you compare God? To what image will you liken him?” (Isaiah 40:18, NIV).
3. “Of what value is an idol carved by a craftsman? Or an image that teaches lies? For the one who makes it trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak. Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Come to life!’ Or to lifeless stone, ‘Wake up!’ Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it” (Habakkuk 2:18-19, NIV).

A. Woman at the Well

1. “‘Sir,’ the woman said, ‘I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem’” (John 4:20-21, NIV).
2. “You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews” (John 4:22, NIV).
3. “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24, NIV).

B. Thomas—Seeing Is Believing

1. “On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” (John 20:19, NIV).
2. “But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe’” (John 20:25, NIV).
3. “Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.’
Thomas said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’
Then Jesus told him, ‘Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed’” (John 20:26-29, NIV).
4. “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16, KJV).

C. An Adulterous Generation

1. “Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, ‘Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.’
He answered, ‘A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign!’” (Matthew 12:38-39, NIV).
 2. “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose” (Acts 16:25-26, NIV).
- b. Believing is seeing!

III. IDOLS IN THE SANCTUARY

A. Apathy

1. "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me" (Matthew 15:8-9, KJV).
2. "Why doesn't one of you just shut the Temple doors and lock them? Then none of you can get in and play at religion with this silly, empty-headed worship. I am not pleased. The God-of-the-Angel-Armies is not pleased. And I don't want any more of this so-called worship!" (Malachi 1:10, MSG).

B. Division and Strife

1. "This is how I want you to conduct yourself in these matters. If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God" (Matthew 5:23-24, MSG).

C. Immorality

1. "If you know what is right to do but you do not do it, you sin" (James 4:17, NLV).

CONCLUSION

1. "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments" (Exodus 5:20, KJV).

QUESTIONS/ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Continue to memorize Ten Commandments
 - I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
 - II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
2. Discuss your first thoughts when you thought about the Second Commandment.
3. What are other things, other than carved idols, that might get in your way of worshipping God?
4. Talk about what it means for God to be invisible.
5. Discuss the characteristics of God:
 - Omniscient
 - Omnipresent
 - Omnipotent