



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 36



A PUBLICATION OF GOD'S THRESHING PLACE
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DAY THIRTY-SIX

Exodus 19-21

The Ten Words

Three months after leaving Egypt, the Israelites arrive at Sinai. The mountain where Moses saw the burning bush. The mountain God named as the place where He would be worshipped. They have come full circle -from the burning bush where God called one man, to the thundering mountain where He speaks to a nation.

God tells Moses to bring this message to the people: you yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. A kingdom of priests. A holy nation.

Before the commandments come the carrying. Before the law comes the rescue. God does not say: obey and I will love you. He says: I already carried you here. I already chose you. Now here is how to live in light of that. Grace precedes law. It always has.

The mountain begins to smoke. Thunder. Lightning. A thick cloud. A trumpet blast so loud the people tremble. Mount Sinai was covered in smoke because the Lord descended on it in fire. The whole mountain shook violently. And God spoke.

-The people asked Moses to speak to them instead. They were afraid that if God spoke directly they would die. And God honoured the request. He did not force proximity. He has always respected the distance people need while gently working to close it.

The Ten Commandments come in Exodus 20. But before we rush through them as a list, notice the first word of the first commandment: I. Not a rule. A person. I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. The commandments are grounded in relationship. In history. In what God has already done. He is not issuing abstract moral principles. He is telling a people who He is and therefore how they should live.

The Ten Commandments are not ten ways to earn God's favour. They are ten ways to honour a God who has already shown it. The commandments describe the shape of a life that has been rescued. They are the response to grace, not the road to it.

You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord. Remember the Sabbath. Honour your father and mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not covet.

Two tables: the first four governing relationship with God, the last six governing relationship with people. Jesus will one day compress the entire law into two commands: love God and love your

neighbour. The Ten Commandments are the same architecture with more detail.

Every commandment is a description of love. Love does not put other things before God. Love does not reduce the infinite to a manageable image. Love does not exploit the name of the One who saved it. Love rests. Love honours. Love does not kill, cheat, steal, lie, or want what belongs to someone else. The law is not the enemy of love. It is love's grammar.

Exodus 21 begins the case laws -specific applications of the principles from chapter 20 to the realities of ancient life. Slavery, injury, property disputes, violent animals. They can feel remote. But underneath every one of them is a consistent value: human beings made in the image of God have dignity that must be protected. The slave who is mistreated goes free. The person who is permanently injured receives justice. The life of a foreigner is as protected as the life of a citizen.

-The ancient world treated the powerful as fully human and everyone else as negotiable. God's law goes the other direction. The vulnerable are explicitly protected. The powerful are held to account.

God's law has always been downstream of His character. He is just, therefore His law demands justice. He protects the weak, therefore His law protects the

weak. You can know who God is by reading what He commanded. The two are never in contradiction. Speak this over yourself today:

Grace came before the law in my life too.

God did not rescue me so I would earn His love.

He rescued me so I could live in light of it.

The commandments are love's grammar. I will speak them.

TOMORROW -Day 37 Exodus 22-24

The covenant is sealed with blood. Moses sprinkles it on the people and says: this is the blood of the covenant. Sound familiar? Come back tomorrow.

Day 36 of 365



WORSHIP UNLEASHED



08:00am

MONDAY - FRIDAY

THE THRESH ONLINE RADIO

A captivating programme that blends powerful worship moments with inspiring stories that reveal the heart of true worship. Each episode explores real-life testimonies, biblical accounts, and worship experiences that help listeners understand and deepen their relationship with God through worship. Where worship comes alive through every story.

*"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship
in spirit and truth" — John 4:24*

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