Interim Pastor Greg Briggs

June 3rd, 2018

- 1. Prayer and Introduction
 - a. "May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in your sight, our rock and redeemer." Amen. (Psalm 19:14)
 - b. "Our Relationship with God"
- 2. Ten Commandments as cross building \trellis building
 - a. Week one foundation building relationship between God and people, what kind of God we follow (one that freest the oppressed and orphans)
 - b. Week two vertical commandments
 - c. Week three horizontal commandments "out of the depths #554" "We are climbing Jacob's ladder #500"
 - d. Coveting nail, binding "blessed be the tie that binds"
 - i. Cross, becomes a trellis
 - ii. Repeat
- 3. The Vertical (or First tablet) commandments
 - a. Governance between God and God's people
 - i. Again, in context of God's Relationship and God's
 - b. Protestant numbering, commandments 1-4,
 - i. Jewish 2-4, with no idols as part of no other gods
 - c. No other gods before me
 - d. No idols
 - e. Respect God's name
 - f. Respect the sabbath
- 4. Basic, core, foundational dynamics
 - a. Place God first unpack it
 - i. The name of God isn't magic; it doesn't transform the profane to the sacred
 - ii. Placing God first is a lifelong faith journey and it includes all of what God wishes for us, individually and collectively
 - 1. Back to verse two, freedom from slavery
 - 2. Forward to Jesus' ministry joyful, healing,
 - b. So, if you are hearing "put God first" as the end of a joyful, blessing full life, then you need to re-examine your understanding of God
 - c. The same goes if you hear "god freed us from slavery" as you can do whatever you want.
 - d. God is neither legalistic or hedonistic God, in this conversation, is less of a "person" and more of a "direction" or "aspiration" a navigating beacon
 - e. A marker, placed in a strong foundation, showing us the right direction
- 5. These commandments in today's world could be a full sermon for each one
 - a. Intertwined with one another
- 6. No other gods before me
 - a. What we put in place of God, whether religious or secular.
 - b. Sneaky one, as we can justify so many things in the name of God
 - i. Inquisition, forced education to Christianity
 - c. Today, bigger danger is thinking Christianity contains or controls God
 - i. It isn't about Muslims, or atheists

- ii. It's what other Xians do in the name of God. That is a dangerous idolatry
- 7. No idols
 - a. Bulletin cover the Biblical story of the Golden calf
 - b. Wall Street bull market, always growing new golden calf
 - i. End of bulletin girl confronting the bull
 - c. So many things are idolized
 - i. The market "power of the market" "the market will control itself"
 - ii. 2nd Amendment
 - d. This commandment has a disturbing follow up to it
- 8. Sins of the parents visited on the children to the 3rd and 4th generation
 - a. Apologetics
 - i. Some argue that this is put here so that parents will be reminded of the wider impact upon their children
 - ii. Some argue that this is JUST about idolatry, and nothing else
 - b. Makes readers very uncomfortable, historically and now
 - i. Deuteronomy version of 10 commandments
 - 1. Deut. refutes this idea just a couple of chapters later Deut. 24:16
 - ii. Prophets too Jeremiah and Ezekiel
 - c. Recognizes a harsh truth in this world, suffering perpetuates beyond an individual
 - i. Communicable or genetically based diseases
 - ii. Poverty perpetuates as wealth accelerates
 - 1. Power of compounding interest
 - 2. Vox video even if equality in pay and access to jobs suddenly equitable for race (and gender), wouldn't correct the majority of the disparity
 - iii. Mental health both genetic and taught
 - 1. Only 7% of pastors mention it from the pulpit
 - 2. "in a crisis, we use what gives love and what gives life" Rachel Keefe
 - iv. Innocents suffer because of the guilty
 - d. Vox racial wealth inequality the wonder of compounding interest
- 9. Respect God's name
 - a. Linked with the one above putting God on our side, versus putting us on God's side
 - b. Gets confused with cussing but it is about maintaining God's supremacy in our lives
 - c. This commandment can sometimes almost become a false idol of its own
 - d. "Do not use the Lord your God's name as if it were of no significance"
 - e. There's a lot of things that wastes the Lord's name
 - i. Big roadside Christian symbols. Spectacles.
 - ii. Fields of the Wood Ten commandments park, that's open 7 days a week
 - iii. Noah's Ark
 - iv. Viewing God as one more marketable commodity, or brand.
 - f. Again, God is not legalistic or hedonistic
 - g. Trivializing of God's name
 - i. Today's challenge what the societal view of what Christians are, and how it got there
 - ii. Intolerant, judgmental, anti-thinking,

- iii. Not invented by a secular society, but is the consequence of a market savvy, rebranding of God by conservative evangelicals
- iv. We did this to ourselves

10. Respect the sabbath

- a. Earliest form of self-care.
- b. Don't just focus on the everyday, set time aside for what is truly important
- c. Franklin Covey Time management remembering to schedule in time for what's important, not just what's urgent
- d. My worry, and my hope for this community is that the Sabbath not get diluted with the business of the church we need to maintain this space, sure, but not to the point that people avoid coming to church because they are going to be asked about X, or to serve on Y committee. Maintain the sacred connection that is the Sabbath. Rest and what's important
- e. You don't work, your family doesn't work, your employees don't work, your animals don't work
- f. Hard to maintain in a multicultural society but it's also the cost of living in a truly multicultural society can't count on the secular world to maintain your faith structures. Which is what we've done in USA for too long.
 - 1. Jewish sabbath nightfall Friday to nightfall Saturday
 - 2. Muslim Friday prayer mid day. Some branches of Islam view all of Friday as a non-work day, others view it as a half day, after the Friday prayer

11. Vertical pole

- a. Connection between us and God
- b. Framework, not entirety of calling
 - i. Just following these commandments are not enough
 - 1. Malicious compliance
 - 2. God is not legalistic or hedonistic
- c. Again, doesn't represent God's connection to us, but our connection to God
 - i. "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."
- d. Be the young girl refuse to yield in the face of false idols, trivializing of God's name

12. Resources

- a. http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=3671
- b. https://revgalblogpals.org/2014/07/01/narrative-lectionary-mine-mine-mine-edition-exodus-2017/

Readings

Exodus 20:1-11 (pg.65)

Then God spoke all these words:

- ² "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ You must have no other gods before me.
- ⁴ Do not make an idol for yourself—no form whatsoever—of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. ⁵ Do not bow down to them or worship them, because I, the Lord your God, am a passionate God. I punish children for their parents' sins even to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. ⁶ But I am loyal and gracious to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.
- ⁷ Do not use the Lord your God's name as if it were of no significance; the Lord won't forgive anyone who uses his name that way.
- ⁸ Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy. ⁹ Six days you may work and do all your tasks, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. Do not do any work on it—not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants, your animals, or the immigrant who is living with you. ¹¹ Because the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them in six days, but rested on the seventh day. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."