

10 Keys to Successful Living

1- Be Clear On Who's In Charge

Exodus 20:1-3

Beginning a new series on The Ten Commandments

The 10 Commandments are not about salvation

Two misconceptions

1. They are primarily about laws
2. They are about salvation

Exodus 20 comes after Exodus 1-19. The Ten Commandments are given after God has saved his people.

Starting with declaring where their first loyalty lies

"You shall have no other gods before me."

God had invested a huge amount in saving the Israelites. In return he's asking for sole rights to their loyalty and worship.

Jesus says the same thing. In Mark 12 he quotes Deuteronomy 6:5 *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."*

If you have accepted God's offer of salvation, if you have recognised that he has saved you by his free grace given in Jesus, then you're bound to him by gratitude and loyalty, and other gods are not an option for you.

(A god is anything you allow to control your life.)

Here's the deal. If Jesus is your saviour, then he has to be your Lord.

God hasn't changed how he saves people. He still changes lives by reaching out and drawing people to himself, taking the first step and paying the price for us to be restored.

And he hasn't changed what he expects in return. Our total loyalty to him, putting him first in our lives, putting him in charge, making him Lord.

They are vows of faithfulness taken by a grateful people

God's first words to his people at Mount Sinai are not the Ten Commandments, but earlier in chapter 19.

'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

These are words of love, not law.

When someone saves your life you owe them. In the ancient world an appropriate response would be to become their vassal, their servant. You would pledge to serve your saviour and they would pledge to protect you from all threats.

That's what the Ten Commandments come closest to.