



Lesson 43

Idol Worship

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The 10 Commandments of Exodus 20 are God's law. They are supposed to teach us how to treat God and others. In a previous lesson, we looked at the relationship between the first 4 commandments and the last 6 commandments. In this lesson, we will look at another way to see the relationship between the 4 and the 6. This way is different, but still connected. We'll be looking at what idols are and what it means to worship.

First perspective of the 10 Commandments

Review- the 4 and the 6

On July 5, 2020, we looked at the Ten Commandments and how they can be broken into four and six. We saw that it should be six and four. The last six are our duty to man- they are natural. The first four are our duty to God- they are spiritual. That's why we say it should be six to four instead of four to six: because the natural comes before the spiritual. Natural to spiritual is a type of parable. That means that the Ten Commandments (the 6-4 version) are a parable. We know that we have to keep both the six and the four. To keep just the six is liberalism and to keep just the four is conservatism. We need to be in the middle and keep all ten.

Second perspective of the 10 Commandments

The Second Commandment

In Exodus 20:4-6 God says, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 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." This is the second commandment. It says not to make or worship idols. This commandment was first given to Israel after they left Egypt. Israel had been in Egypt for 400 years; the Egyptian influence began to affect them and they started worshiping like the Egyptians. When Israel came out of Egypt they made the golden calf, which they worshiped thinking they were worshiping God. So with all of this idolatry going on, God gave the 10 Commandments, the second being a clear statement to not worship idols.

A problem

In Exodus 20:4-6, God says that His people are not supposed to worship idols. But there is a problem. We understand parable methodology and that command is against parable methodology. Specifically, it is against the principal of natural to spiritual. To understand the spiritual, we must first understand the natural, the natural has to come first. We are natural so we can't understand spiritual things except through something natural. The clearest representation of this principal is God; God is spiritual: so to understand Him we need something natural. This is why Exodus 20:4-6 (the Second Commandment) is not totally correct. The only way for us to know how to worship God, who is spiritual, is through something natural.

Must worship idols

We want to understand how we can worship God properly. But how do we do that? Well, we know that God is spiritual and we know that we can't understand the spiritual directly because we are not spiritual. We first have to understand the natural. Our objective is to understand how to worship the spiritual, so to do that we have to worship the natural. What is natural? Idols. Idols are the physical form of a god. To understand how to worship God, we need to worship idols. That's natural to spiritual- just how it should be.

Missing information

We know that the rules govern everything. One of these rules is parables, which can be seen as natural to spiritual. We can't worship the spiritual unless we worship the natural- that's parables. Worshiping something natural is worshiping an idol, therefore idol worship is mandatory. But now there is a problem, the rules say we must worship idols but God said, in the Second Commandment, not to, so who is right? God created parables, so there can't be a problem, there just has to be missing information. Parables are what we can use to find missing information. For example, when we compare and contrast (which is parables) Daniel 11:40 with Revelation 13:3, Revelation 17:8, and Revelation 17:11, we can find missing information that isn't in the Revelation verses (see YPG lesson 35). So this has to be the case, a plain reading of the verse will say that God said don't make or worship idols, but when we apply parables, we can find missing information.

God has made idols- missing information

So, Exodus says we can't make idols. God doesn't want us to make something to worship, but we know that we have to worship idols because that is according to the methodology of parable teaching. God knows about the principal of natural to spiritual- because he made it and gave that truth to us. He also knows, therefore, that we must worship something in order to worship Him. So while He told us not to make an idol to worship, He had to make one for us. Through the principal of natural to spiritual we know that we have to worship idols, and therefore we know that in the first 4 commandments there is missing information. We are told not to make idols because God already has (that is the missing information).

What are God's idols?

We have to worship idols. But how do we do that? In order to worship these idols, we first need to know what they are. The idols that we are to worship are not made of wood or stone, they're people. People are idols. People are the natural form of God that we need to worship in order to be able to worship God. The idols can't be inanimate things or animals because neither of those things are like God. People were created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26,27) so they are the very best representation of God in natural form. That is why we have to worship them- in order to be able to worship God.

Why we can't make idols

If we are to worship humans, why does God say not to make or worship idols? We know it's because God made us idols, but why can't we make our own idol? If it's to tell us about God, why can't we make anything do that job? We can't because we'd always pick the wrong thing. God tells us not to make idols because we would make the wrong thing. The Israelites picked a golden calf, and others might pick a stone or tree. These are all the wrong things; the reason God tells us to worship humans is because we are the most like him. Worshiping a tree can't teach us about God because trees don't listen, or talk, and they don't have

emotions. Humans do all of that just like God. So the reason the Second Commandment tells us not to make or worship idols is because God already has, and because we'd never pick the ideal, which is humans.

Worship = Love

We have learned that we are supposed to worship idols: humans; but what does worship mean? Worship means love. The word "worship" comes from the word "worth"- which means to have value. The Webster 1828 dictionary says that worship has two meanings (in general): it can have to do with God or another human. It can be the homage or honor given to God, like prayer. But it also means to respect, honor, and extremely love others. So when we are told in 1 John 4:20 that you cannot say you don't love people and say you love God, it is saying that you must worship humans (the idols that God made) in order to really worship God. When we are told to love our neighbors we are being told to worship them because to worship means to love.

All of the 10

The Ten Commandments show us how to worship God through worshipping people. The first four commandments are telling us to worship people. Worshipping other people is idol worship which is included in the first four commandments. The last six commandments are telling us how we can worship people. That is how we can say that all Ten Commandments are telling us to worship people.

Equality

As we have seen, we have to worship idols. We saw that in order to worship something spiritual (God) we have to worship something natural, which is idol worship. God gave us humans to worship as an idol. We changed worship to love and saw that we have to love humans in order to love or worship God. This is why God gave us equality; it teaches us to love other humans as if they were equal to us because they are. This is the new commandment. God gave us equality so we can learn the last 6 commandments, or, in the perspective of this lesson, all 10, which is loving other humans. When and only when we do this, we can fully be able to worship God.

1st Perspective

4
Duty to God

6
Duty to man

2nd Perspective

Exodus 20: 4-6
God says don't
make or worship
idols.

Missing Information

According to
parables, we have
to worship idols
in order to
worship God.

Exodus 20: 4-6
God says don't
make or worship
idols-

because God has
made us idols-
which are
humans.

Parables say we
have to worship
God's idols in
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Him.

Exodus 20: 4-6
God says don't
make or worship
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because God has
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which are
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and because we
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wrong thing to
worship.

Parables say we
have to love
God's idols in
order to worship
Him.

All of the 10 Commandments tells
us to love humans.

Equality teaches us to love humans, which will then show us how to properly love/worship God.

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