



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Sermon Series // Joshua; Judges; Ruth

Supports Session 8: Consequences

Sermon Title: "Learning From Others" (Exodus 20:1-6)

Connection to Session 8

We learned in our group study this morning that God was aware of the inconsistent actions of the Israelites. He warned the Israelites not to engage in these actions. This warning still applies to us today.

Introduction/Opening

Have you ever noticed that the baby of the family does not get into as much trouble as the older siblings? One reason might be that the parents could be a little tired and do not want the argument. Another possibility is that the baby has learned from the mistakes of the older siblings. As we learned in our Bible study this morning, the children of Israel did not learn from the mistakes of others. Let's study God's Word this morning to learn more about Him and avoid the sins of the past.

Outline

- 1. Learn from God's counsel** (vv. 1-2)
 - a.** The passage we are studying this morning outlines the Ten Commandments. Moses had gone up Mount Siani to commune with God and receive His commands (Ex. 19:16-25). Our passage begins with, "Then God spoke all these words." The fact that God spoke audibly to Moses is vital. These were neither the words of a coach trying to motivate his team to win, nor the words of an activist trying to rally the people for a cause. Rather, these were the very words of God and He was speaking.
 - b.** We have at least two important facts to embrace as we understand that God was speaking. First, when Jesus was being tempted by Satan in the desert, He responded to each temptation with the words of God; that is, the Scriptures. After the first recorded temptation, Jesus stated, "Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4; see Deut. 8:3). Therefore, we learn that God's Word provides sustenance that food does not.

- c. Wisdom comes when we put God's Word into practice in our lives. Jesus concluded the Sermon on the Mount by saying that "everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matt. 7:24). Simply hearing God's counsel, or even studying His Word, is not enough for true wisdom. True wisdom comes when we put God's Word into practice and act on it in our daily lives. Let us strive to be wise and apply God's commands to our lives today.

2. Learn from God's commands (vv. 3-4)

- a. What would we do if we saw a child start walking toward the street? If we loved them, we would do everything necessary to stop them. We would raise our voice in an effort to get their attention, or we would disengage from whatever we were doing and actively seek to save them. We would not worry about hurting their feelings as we know that something much more painful could be ahead if we did nothing.
- b. If this is true of us, then why would it not be true of our Heavenly Father? He issues commands not to limit our joy but to protect us from harm. We find two of His commands in these two verses. He first said that we are to have no other gods besides Him (v. 3). We should notice the small "g" in the spelling of gods. While "God" is always capitalized when it refers to the one true God, all other gods receive a small "g" spelling. This is true not only in spelling but also in character. No other god this world has to offer compares to the God of the Bible.
- c. The second command is that we should not make or worship idols. This command would be much easier to obey if idols came in a singular shape or size. We would then be able to avoid them. The truth, however, is that idols are multi-faceted. We can have the idol of more or better stuff. We can have the idol of more interactions on social media or the praise of men. The list is endless, and we would be wise to avoid them all.

3. Learn from God's character (vv. 5-6)

- a. As your pastor, I would like to confess something to you this morning. I am jealous for my bride. I want to treat her special, because she is. I want to love her the way Jesus loves the church because this is what I am commanded to do and is something that I *get* to do (Eph. 5:25). I would hope that you would smile and encourage me in this jealousy that I feel toward my wife. This jealousy is the same jealousy God has. His jealousy is not merely possessive—it is loving.
- b. We see His loving nature in verse 6 in that His faithful love is shown for generations. This love is both just and unconditional. We observe the just and unconditional love of God in the cross. Jesus took on the sin of mankind and experienced God's wrath. The fact that Jesus served as a substitute for us shows

the depth and unconditional nature of God's love. The fact that Jesus took the full wrath of God as a punishment for sin shows God's just nature. We see His loving character in Exodus 20 in providing commands for our benefit and then providing a means of restitution when we break His commands.

Conclusion

We quoted Jesus earlier in the message when He said that the wise man was the one who heard God's Word and acted upon it. Let us be wise today by acting upon God's Word, not putting any other gods before Him or having false idols that we worship. He gives us these commands not to limit our fun, but rather to protect us from harm. He does these things because He loves us.

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