

Exodus - Glory

Exodus 33

Matthew 22:35–40 (NASB95)

³⁵ One of them, a lawyer, asked Him *a question*, testing Him, ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

Notice that Jesus didn't say, “Well you foolish man, they are all the same:”. Jesus says that one particular command carries the **greatest weight**, and we might assume that because it is the greatest command, **to break the greatest command is to commit the greatest sin.**

³⁷ And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸ “This is the great and foremost commandment.”

The term **WORSHIP** is derived from the Old English word meaning, “worth - ship”. It is an attribution of worth or value. We commonly speak of worship in conjunction with the word, “praise”. Which is where we get our word appraisal, which means to attribute worth to something.

So we show our devotion, value or love for God through worship. We value Him, His Word, His presence above all else.

Satan redirects our worship toward Idolatry. To get you to love, value, and worship anything but God. Thus breaking the greatest command, thereby committing the greatest sin. **This greatest sin is called, “Idolatry”.**

The most repeated command is this, “have no other gods before me”. Also forbidding idolatry.

EXAMPLE: In the garden Satan tempted Adam to value his word more than God's Word. We commit Idolatry anytime we Worship/Value anything more than God

So idolatry isn't always bowing down to a statue, but it's when anything takes a place of greater prominence in our lives than God.

Colossians 3:5 (NASB95)

⁵ Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, **which amounts to idolatry.**

- Sexual Sin - Idolatry
- Impurity, like pornography, lust - idolatry
- Perpetual Evil Desires - idolatry

- Greed - Idolatry

The human heart can turn anything into an Idol

In **I Corinthians 10:19-20**, Paul tells us that behind every idol is in fact a demon. A legitimate personality, a fallen angel, a follower of Satan.

So demons are willing to work through anyone or anything to convert them into an idol, thus misdirect your worship.

IN OUR TEXT WE SEE AT LEAST TWO THINGS THAT REVEAL WHAT WE WORSHIP - OUR MONEY and OUR PRAYERS.

CONTEXT: So remember last week we saw that because of the covenant God had with Abraham, God raised up Moses to deliver the people. We landed in Chapter 4, Moses's wife Zipporah circumcises their son and now Moses makes his way to the court of Pharaoh.

He demands that Pharaoh release the Israelites that they may worship their God. Pharaoh refuses and Moses begins to unleash a series of plagues on the Egyptians.

Ironically, the plagues are direct opposites to the creation story mentioned in Gen. 1-2. So it is in essence creation coming apart at the seams.

Creation Day	Creation Description	Plague on Egypt	Plague Description
Day 1 Gen. 1:1-5	Light out of darkness	Plague 9 Ex. 10:21-29	Darkness prevailing over light
Day 2 Gen. 1:6-8	Ordering and separation of the waters	Plague 1 Ex. 7:15-25	Chaos and destruction due to water changed into blood
Day 3 Gen. 1:9-13	Appearance of dry land and creation of vegetation	Plagues 7-8 Ex. 9:18-10:20	Destruction of vegetation by hail and locusts
Day 4 Gen. 1:14-19	Creation of luminaries	Plague 9 Ex. 10:21-29	Darkening of luminaries
Day 5 Gen. 1:20-23	Creation of birds and fish of the sea	Plagues 1-2 Ex. 7:15-8-15	Death of fish; multiplication and death of frogs
Day 6 Gen. 1:24-31	Creation of land animals and humans	Plagues 3-4 Ex. 8:16-24 Plague 5 Ex. 9:1-7 Plague 6 Ex. 9:8-17 Plague 10 Ex. 11-12	Pestilence of insects Death of beasts Boils on beasts and humans Death of firstborn

CHAPTER 12 - Pharaoh finally relents and releases the people - but as they go something interesting happens.

1. There is a mixed multitude going out. So some Egyptians get saved.
2. Donations of Gold and silver are given to the Jews.

Why would God do this? Because we will see later that these precious metals are going to be used for the tabernacle and the ark of the covenant.

- CHAPTER 14 - Crossing the Red Sea
- CHAPTER 15 - Bitter water is made Sweet
- CHAPTER 16 - Manna from Heaven
- CHAPTER 17 - Water from the Rock
- 19-31 - Moses is with God on Sinai and God gives Moses the Law as well as the 10 commands written on stone.

When he comes down what does he find in chapter 32?

TEXT: Exodus 32:1–10 (ESV)

¹ When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”

² So Aaron said to them, **“Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.”**

- Now where did they get the rings of gold?
- What was that gold to be used for?

³ So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!”

Moses comes down from the Mountain -

²¹ And Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you have brought such a great sin upon them?” ²² And Aaron said, “Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. ²⁴ So I said to them, ‘Let any who have gold take it off.’ So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf.”

Moses - it just happened... It wasn't intentional... it wasn't my fault.

Exodus 33:1–6 (ESV)

¹ The Lord said to Moses, “Depart; go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘To your offspring I will give it.’ ² ***I will send an angel before you,*** and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ³ Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; ***but I will not go up among you,*** lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.”

So God is offering them what most Americans want today - the benefits of God without the constraints.

There is a sense in which God is everywhere, but there is a sense in which he manifests himself in our lives.

Exodus 33:15–23 (ESV)

¹⁵ And he said to him, ***“If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.***

There are two things in the passage that reveal the heart as it relates to God’s Glory. These two things reveal your heart as well.

1. Your Money

Money serves two functions -

a. It reveals your heart - If you want to know what you care about look where your money goes.

b. It steers your heart - example... sometimes i give out of sheer discipline.

2. Your Prayer

Moses prays - God if you will not go with us, just let us die in the wilderness.

Remember with Job his wife said, “you’ve lost your stuff, you’ve lost your kids, why don’t you curse God and die”.

Here Moses is saying - If I loose my God I might as well die.

CONCLUSION: Imagine a line that stretches infinitely one way and then the other... then imagine we had the ability to take a pen and make a tiny notch in the line. That tiny notch represents your life. The goal is constantly remember that, never forget it, and live in the notch with the rest of the line in mind.