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God's Top Ten List – Guardrails Matter

August 20, 2023 Message Notes

TEXT: EXODUS 19-20

This week, the Exodus journey brings us to the Ten Commandments. These were given to guard and to guide. What are these guardrails protecting? Where are they directing?



NOTES

Guardrails do two things:

1. Guard you from the danger of what's on the other side
2. Guide you to another course of action that leads to life

Sometimes guardrails can't completely stop what is happening and sometimes their guidance is ignored.

The Exodus journey brings us to the 10 Commandments – given to guard and to guide.

God is drawing his people out of slavery and drawing them into the land of promise.

God parted waters of the Red Sea so the Israelites could cross over on dry land. Pharaoh's army was destroyed in the returning waters.

“Let my people go so they can worship me...”

Exodus 7:16

The power of God's love seen in a passing over (by the blood of the Passover lamb) and a passing through (the Red Sea).

What they went through physically is our story spiritually in Jesus Christ.

We were redeemed “...with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”

1 Peter 1:19

“They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony...”

Revelation 12:11

“...Our ancestors...all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.”

1 Corinthians 10:1-2

Passing through the Red Sea is a picture of baptism - buried with Christ to rise and walk the newness of life. Passing through his death into new life.

God's drawing them out to draw them closer into Himself. But to get there, they pass through wilderness.

“Were there no graves in Egypt that you brought us into the desert to die?”



Exodus 14:11

“The Lord tells Moses, ‘I will rain down bread from heaven. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day.’”

Exodus 16:4

“The Lord answered...‘I will stand there by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.’”

Exodus 17:6

“They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them and that rock was Christ.”

1 Corinthians 10:3-4

Jesus is our bread of life, Jesus is our living water provided for us as we journey through this wilderness.

God introduces guardrails – commandments - to the Israelites for them to know Him and know what matters to Him.

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.”

Exodus 20:2

“And God spoke all these words...”

Exodus 20:3-17

What are these guardrails protecting? Where are they directing?

No other gods	Guards what’s True
No idols	Guards what’s Real
Don’t misuse God’s name	Guards true Power
Keep the Sabbath	Guards real Humility
Honor father/mother	Guards what’s Worthy
No murder	Guards Respect for life
No adultery	Guards Fidelity
No stealing	Guards Industry
No lying	Guards Integrity
No coveting	Guards Safety

What does it mean to get to know God?

God wasn’t just telling people what to do, making them His slaves now.



God was helping the people get to know their Deliverer – what he's like, his character, what matters to him, what He values.

“So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith.”

Galatians 3:24

The law of God isn't a ladder we climb by our own good works to get into heaven. It's not a to-do list to earn God's favor.

“He saved us, not by works of righteousness that we had done...”

Titus 3:5

The law is like a mirror that helps me look at myself and see what needs attention.

The mirror isn't showing me myself so I can fix it by myself, but so I will see my need and turn to God for grace and salvation.

- God can set us free from our slavery to sin and death.
- He wants us in a loving relationship with Him - not because we are good, but because He is.

God has already shown us His great love in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

We have to turn away from all the lesser loves/gods in our lives. Release the sins and habits that take us down. Let God create in us a clean heart and welcome his Spirit to come alive deep within us.

Jesus came to fulfill the law and do what we can't do - to take us into a relationship with holy God.

Has anything like that ever happened to you?

