

FORSAKING ALL OTHERS

The First Commandment

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”

Exodus 20:2-3; see also Exodus 20:23; 22:20; 23:13; 34:14; Deuteronomy 6:5, 13-14; 13:6-11; Joshua 24:14-15; 2 Kings 17:35; Psalms 40:4; 81:9-10; 86:10; Jeremiah 25:6

No gods but Yahweh: Deuteronomy 32:17; 2 Kings 19:18; 1 Chronicles 16:26; Psalms 96:5; Isaiah 37:19; 43:10; 44:6, 8; 45:5, 20-22; 46:9; Jeremiah 16:20; Hosea 14:3; Acts 17:29; 19:26; Romans 3:30; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 1 Timothy 2:5; James 2:19

Israel’s idolatry: Genesis 35:1-4; Exodus 32:1-4; Deuteronomy 32:16-17; 1 Kings 14:9; 2 Kings 17:7-16; 21:1-15; Jeremiah 2:11, 13; 3:6-10; 5:7; 13:25; Ezekiel 16; Romans 1:18-25

How to flee from idolatry:

- _____
Matthew 6:24; Philippians 3:19; Colossians 3:5

Qs:

- Who or what do I value most?
- Where do I seek satisfaction?
- Whose wish is my command?

- _____

- _____

- _____

James 4:8-9; 1 John 1:9; Revelation 2:4-5

TRANSFORMED BY THE TRUTH

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. Read Isaiah 54:5, Jeremiah 2:2, John 3:2; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3 and Ephesians 5:31-32. How does the description of your relationship with God as a “marriage” deepen your understanding of the First Commandment?
2. Read Exodus 20:1-3, Exodus 34:14 and Psalm 40:4. What is wrong with having other “gods” before Yahweh?
3. Read Matthew 4:8-10. Why do you think the devil tempted Jesus to break the First Commandment?
4. Read Matthew 6:24, Colossians 3:5 and Philippians 3:19. What are three potential rivals to God in your life? When and how have you fallen into idolatry?
5. What is your personal strategy for staying faithful to God?