

Putting God First

April 27, 2014

EXODUS 20:1-3

Vol. 4 Num. 16

BY HOWARD KELLY

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Guest Speaker: Howard Kelly

Howard is an old friend of CLBC, having attended here as a co-op student in the 80's. He graduated Texas A & M and attended CLBC while working at McDonnell Douglas from 1989 to 1992. He was active in our singles group until he met his wife, Kathy. They were married in November 1991. Howard and Kathy have 3 daughters, Elizabeth (16), Gracie (9), and Jamie (9). (Gracie and Jamie were adopted from China, but are not twins.)

Howard is a 1998 graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, and from 1999 to 2006, he and Kathy were missionaries to Thailand with the International Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He is currently working as an engineer with Technip in Houston. The Kelly's live in Katy, TX and are members of Kingsland Baptist Church

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in this passage.

Read Exodus 20:1-3

¹ And God spoke all these words:

² “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ “You shall have no other gods before me.

Read Ephesians 1:3-8

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace

⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,

Read Ephesians 5:8-10

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)

¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord.

Read Exodus 34:14-16

¹⁴ Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

¹⁵ “Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices.

¹⁶ And when you choose some of their daughters as wives for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same.

Read Acts 19:17-20

¹⁷ When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.

¹⁸ Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done.

¹⁹ A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.

²⁰ In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

Read Deuteronomy 13:6-9

⁶ If your very own brother, or your son or daughter, or the wife you love, or your closest friend secretly entices you, saying, “Let us go and worship other gods” (gods that neither you nor your ancestors have known,

⁷ gods of the peoples around you, whether near or far, from one end of the land to the other),

⁸ do not yield to them or listen to them. Show them no pity. Do not spare them or shield them.

⁹ You must certainly put them to death. Your hand must be the first in putting them to death, and then the hands of all the people.

4. What “other gods” are there in your life that distract you from making God first?

5. Is there anything in your life that needs to be removed or “burned up” like the books owned by the new believers in Ephesus (Acts 19:17-20)?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

④ LIVE His Word

Summarize your thoughts on the passage.

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO.

Sermon Notes: