

I AM AND THE PEOPLE – WEEK 3

Warm-up: When you look back over your life, what are the things that have changed MOST for you? Can you think of any ideas, principles and values that have been the same all your life? Discuss what type of things these are? Where do they come from?

How about our society - are we moving to a society where no values or principles are fixed?

BIBLE PROJECT VIDEO

READ EXODUS 20:1-17

1. Why do you think God gave these instructions (commandments) at this time in the story of the Israelites?

When the Israelites came out of Egypt, it was the start of a new life. They were already God's people but the commandments were a way of showing what the new life should look like. They reflect the character of God and were to be a witness to the other nations of God's character.

2. Are these instructions true for us today who live in a very different time and culture?
3. The commandments can be divided into two parts. In part 1 (verses 1-11), they are about God. Why did God feel the need to start by focusing on Him? How would you answer Brad Pitt, who says that it seems to him that God is acting out of ego?
4. How can we interpret these ideas for today? Who or what might the idols be today? What are we worshipping that is not God?
5. How should we react in a society that routinely takes God's name in vain?
6. What should keeping the Sabbath mean for us? How do you plan your Sabbath?
7. In verses 12-17, the instructions are about how we live in society and relate to one another. How does our society stack up against these instructions?
8. How can we view these instructions? Are they just things to aspire to? Can we ever really adhere to all these instructions?

The 10 commandments expose our sinful nature, our self-centredness and our failure to live the way we should. However, they do not have the power to liberate us from the power of sin. Only God can give us this power.

However, Jesus did not tell us to abandon the commandments.

READ MATTHEW 19:16-19 and MATTHEW 22:37-40

1. Why do you think Jesus quoted the 5 commandments in answering the rich young ruler?
2. How did Jesus summarise the 10 commandments in Matthew 22:37-40?
3. How did Paul understand the relationship between the law and the gospel? (READ Rom 3:31 and Rom 6:14, Rom 8:1-4).

TO FINISH: What is the place of the 10 commandments for you today? How can we insure that we are living lives the way God wants us to live?