

# 10. Ten Ways to Be Perfect

## Exodus 16-40

1. Introduction:
  - a. How do you serve this kind of God?
    - i. Feel like it's never enough → my story, boot camp
    - ii. Listen and remember b/c my wrestling w/ God this week is for your gain
  - b. Creation, Fall, Redemption (in Act 3 currently)
    - i. Redemption and rescue will come through Israel
    - ii. Israel's rescue will be an archetype of our rescue
2. WHAT DOES THE STORY SAY?
  - a. Part 1, Murmuring (water, food, water, victory)
    - i. Some form of need → Murmuring → Provision from God → Law as a reminder from God (verbally, demonstration of power over amalekites,
    - ii. Murmuring is serious → terrible lie, questioning God's motive
    - iii. *Example of my murmuring → Exodus 17 and 18 w/ Moses' arms and leadership delegation*
    - iv. "I am I AM (YHWH), I am YOUR God. I have redeemed you. I will care for you. I made a promise to bless the world through one of your offspring. Will you trust me?"
  - b. Part 2, You are mine
    - i. After rescuing Israel, God initiates a covenant relationship with Israel for the sake of his glory to the nations.
      1. Strategically placed position, strategically designed government
        - a. A kingdom "not of this world"
      2. Strategically chosen nation that is small, weak, reliant on him
    - ii. IF you obey me... Conditional covenant vs. unconditional covenant
      1. Unconditional: all the world will be rescued through an offspring of Israel → Jesus
      2. Conditional: staying in the promised land, being my chosen people for my purposes is contingent upon your obedience
    - iii. If you obey me, you will be to me a kingdom of priests
      1. Priests have access to God → tabernacle, pillar of fire, cloud
      2. Priests represent God → location, recipients of revelation, blessing
        - a. Priests proclaim
        - b. Priests intercede
        - c. Priests pursue justice
    - iv. Ex 19:8, We'll do it!!!
      1. They agree without even knowing what it is...
  - c. Part 3, If you are to represent me, what do I / my people look like?

- i. Before God even starts explaining, he tells Moses that if anyone even comes near the mountain he is on they will die. How do you serve this kind of God?
  - ii. "I saved you. You are my priests, but if you are going to represent me, what does that look like? How should you live if you want to not die in my presence let alone serve me?"
  - iii. Form of a covenant between a king who provides and his subjects
    - 1. Obedience = blessing
    - 2. Disobedience = punishment
  - iv. Ten Commandments (Decalogue)
    - 1. I am your only God - loyalty to the king
    - 2. You can't have any idols - loyalty
    - 3. No blasphemy → flippant use of God (e.g. "I swear to God!") - loyalty
    - 4. Remember the sabbath - trusting the king's provision.
    - 5. Honor your mom and dad - most basic authority set in place by king
    - 6. No murder
    - 7. No adultery
    - 8. No theft
    - 9. No lying
    - 10. No coveting
  - v. People respond w/ fear → they don't want to talk to God
    - 1. Their fear is justified...
    - 2. BUT fear doesn't seem to be a powerful enough persuasion to obey God. Evidenced in two stories
      - a. Golden Calf → these are the gods who brought you out of Egypt...
      - b. Moses - even MOSES - can't enter the tabernacle tent
  - d. Part 4, Exodus ends w/ Moses not being able to access God's presence
    - i. This serves as a bookend.
      - 1. Beginning, Israel at risk from Egypt
      - 2. End, Israel at risk from their own sin
    - ii. We end with this implied question, **"How does a sinful people ever hope to serve a holy God?"**
    - iii. This will point to the next book, Leviticus, which explains sacrificial system
      - 1. How do a sinful people live among a holy God? Through blood.
3. WHAT DOES THIS TEACH ABOUT GOD?
- a. God is holy and he lives in unapproachable**
  - b. God is not served by human hands**
    - i. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by*

*human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. (Acts 17:24-25)*

4. WHAT DOES THIS TEACH ABOUT US?

**a. We are not holy**

- i. We are forgetful murmurers
- ii. We are flippant towards God's goodness
- iii. We are unable to obey even one of these ten laws
- b. This is why the law was given... Jesus in Matthew 5-7... Paul...

5. HOW DOES THIS TIE INTO SCRIPTURE'S STORY OF GOD?

- a. You can't be good enough. You can't serve enough. You can never tip the scales.
- b. Someone had to obey the Law
  - i. Someone who was morally upright, socially just, judicially righteous, sacrificially clean
- c. The rescuer would be a true and better Israel
  - i. One who fulfilled the law, obeyed the law, accurately represented God
- d. But rather than be celebrated, he was crucified...
- e. Now he offers something called passive righteousness → imputed righteousness
  - i. Great exchange

6. IF THIS IS TRUE, WHAT DO YOU DO?

**a. [3] For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. [4] For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (Romans 10:3-4 ESV)**

- b. Those who are thinking, "I hope I'm good enough..."
  - i. Start knowing, "I am not good enough..."
  - ii. You can trust in your own abilities, but you know yourself...
  - iii. OR you can trust in God's goodness
  - iv. If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and trust in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Rom 10:9)**
- c. For those who have trusted in Christ, let's go back to my story
  - i. The only way that we can approach the mountain of the Lord is through the blood of Christ
  - ii. The only way that we can continue on the mountain of the Lord is through the blood of Christ
  - iii. He is not served by human hands. He serves us.
  - iv. The son of man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life.
  - v. Any service that I offer to the Lord is nothing of my own, but is the imputed righteousness of Christ
  - vi. God is not impressed whether I plan 1 church or 100 churches, whether you lead 5 people to Christ or 5000 because you and I only stand before him IN CHRIST.
  - vii. All we have is Christ and he is all we need.