



**Title:** The Decalogue  
**Series:** Realities  
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This series is on a passage of scripture, a very famous passage of scripture in Exodus known as "the

Decalogue" or even more commonly known as "the Ten Commandments." Now today is framework. It's going to feel like a lot to take in, all in one sitting. A lot of scripture, and stories. A lot of strange words. You may want to go back and watch online if you are trying to take notes.... But I have been praying that I can make this as clear as easy to understand as possible.

"The Ten Commandments" are found in Exodus 20:1-17:

And God spoke all these words, saying,

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

3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the

seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

13 “You shall not murder.

14 “You shall not commit adultery.

15 “You shall not steal.

16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

First, why study the ten commandments?

They are old. Very old. And we like things that are new. We like things that make us feel good. That make us feel loved. That make us feel empowered. That make us feel warm and fuzzy. We don’t like rules.

So naturally, when we read the bible, most of us default to Jesus. Because Jesus came and he did something so amazing. He showed us, “its not about the rules.”

But what we fail to realize is that even before Jesus, it was *not about the rules*.

And even when Jesus came, he made it clear, he did not come to destroy the law. In fact, he says in Matthew 5:18 that not a yot or tittle will pass away from the law until all is accomplished. Heaven and Earth may pass away, but the law will not. That is a bold statement... that this so called “law” will outlive everything else.

Now, this statement “yot or tittle” was a well known statement in that time. In Hebrew, it was saying “not a “yod” (pronounced yode) will pass away - A “yod” is the 10th and smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet. It is significantly smaller than every other letter. What this statement meant to the Hebrews was “not even the most insignificant thing” will pass away.



Jesus is saying that everything is breakable, except this.

The Psalmist essentially says the same thing:

The very first thing we read in Psalms is “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.” (Psalm 1:1-2)

It goes on to say “He is like a tree planted by the streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” (Psalm 1:3)

Who is like a tree planted by the streams of water that yields fruit? The fruit that we talked about for the last ten weeks?

The man who delights in the law of the Lord.

So that is why we study it. But now we need to look at why it existed in the first place.

Because before we get into the what, we first need to get into the why. And before we can get into the why, we really need to first look at the who.

The Ten Commandments were given to the Israelites. They had just come out of slavery... In fact, they had been enslaved for the last 430 years. Generation After generation after generation of being slaves, of not having rights... Of being beaten and killed... They worked all day long, every single day. There were no breaks, no days off. No holidays. No Christmas around a fire cuddled up with the ones that you love.. No Easter egg hunts for the kids. No labor day, just labor. Just work. And then suddenly God does this amazing thing, and they are free. So if you look at where they came from, you realize, that the laws that to us represent bondage, *to them would have represented freedom.*

But it didn't come easy, and it wasn't a pretty escape. They didn't just walk out of there. No, they witnessed things that would no doubt stay with them the rest of their lives...

God had to send a message to the hard hearted Pharaoh... And nothing got through to him...

He sent ten plagues... (Exodus 11)

First water turned to blood

Then Egypt was plagued with frogs

Then gnats

Then flies

Then God killed all of the Egyptians livestock, but spared the Israelites livestock.

You would think that would be enough... But this King loved his slaves...

At the end of each plague, the bible says "But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go"

So the plagues continued...

Next (6th) came boils

Then came hail

Then came locusts (8)

Then the 9th plague was darkness.

And when none of that was enough to free the slaves...

Then, the tenth plague came. We know the story... Every first born in the land, would die. From the first born of Pharaoh to the first born of the slave girl... Even the first born of the cattle. Exodus 11:6-7 says "There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again... But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel."

It was a sad, sad night in Egypt. But the Israelites were spared... Because they slaughtered a lamb and put its blood on their doorpost... But God, from the very beginning was proving something to the Israelites... He was showing them how much he cares for them... He was showing them how hard he is willing to work, to see them be free.

When Pharaoh realized what had happened.. That there was not an Egyptian house in all the land that someone had not died in that night, he finally called for Moses and Aaron and said "go! Get out of here... Take the Israelites with you." And thus began "The Exodus"

So that's the who... the who is the Israelites... An incredibly broken people coming off of a very distorted view of what life really is supposed to look like... An incredibly broken people with 0 experience of what it is like to be free. But in order for them to be free they had to watch as all their Egyptian neighbors suffer an unthinkable loss... they watched as their neighbors lost their first borns... They had just as much unlearning to do as they did learning... But one thing was clear, God was on their side.

Fast forward past Pharaoh changing his mind, yet again, and past God parting the Red Sea, and the Israelites finally escaping the Egyptian hold once and for all...

and We find ourselves at the foot of Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:17)

Where Moses goes up but the people stay down...

Where Moses goes and has the conversation with God, and comes down with this set of what we have grown up thinking were a set of rules and regulations that he was placing on the Israelites in order to keep them in line, when in reality it was much, much more than that.

Dawn and i used to film weddings. Actually, even this year we filmed a couple of them.. In June we had two contracts in New York that we had to fulfill even after stepping into our new role here, so we had to go back to New York for a few days and shoot them... We started doing it Just as a way to make a little extra money for our family. Last fall we had an awesome opportunity to go to Maui and film a wedding for two of our great friends in New York. It was amazing, it was a free trip to Hawaii, and we got

to spend it with all of our closest friends from the New York church.. our lead pastors, and a good amount of the couples on our pastoral care team which we were very close too.. And my mom came to the city for the week to watch the kids so it was a whole week in Hawaii with no kids, and it was completely paid for. It was a beautiful wedding.

There is something very special about weddings, in general.

Weddings bring people together. It brings friends and families together, people from all over will come to one place, for this one occasion. Some of them, you may never see except for at weddings... I went to a friends wedding in July and saw friends I hadn't seen in years and likely wont see again until the next wedding... but they come out for this event, because they know it is the most significant moment in a persons life.

Which of course adds pressure to shooting a wedding, because you only get one shot at capturing the most significant moment in that couples life.

But of all of the weddings that we have filmed over the years, The most interesting weddings are always the Jewish ones. They always stand under the Huppah where they say their vows and commit themselves to each other. They would break the glass in the towel... Jewish people even today are so fond of their traditions..in fact it seems like whether or not a Jewish person is actively practicing their religion, when it comes to their wedding, they go all out.

One of the things that they always want us to film is the signing of the Ketubah... It's actually a somewhat difficult thing to capture because the priest is there, the bride and groom and both of their parents are there... It always seems to be in some tiny room with poor lighting and it all happens pretty fast... But the Ketubah is this giant piece of paper that is basically a marriage contract or agreement to the terms of their marriage.. And they all sign it in front of each other committing their faithfulness to this marriage.

Well, The Hebrew people called the Decalogue a 10-word Ketubah. They didn't view it as just some set of hard rules thrown down from heaven in a fit of rage to bind them to a law that they can not fulfill... They saw it as an agreement between two parties... They saw it as a marriage.

Think about it! They had just come out of 430 years of slavery... Of working all day every day... And suddenly they hear something like "remember the sabbath and keep it Holy"... These slaves were not slaves anymore. Now they got a day off... A day with just them and God. When they were slaves, an Egyptian soldier could come up to them and take whatever they wanted... It didn't matter what it was... The soldier could take their wife if he wanted, it didn't matter... The slaves had no rights. But here God is saying, "in this marriage, thou shall not steal." Though shall not covet. Though shall not kill. It was a whole new set of liberties to them. Things that actually protected their humanity. It's fascinating.

The very whole thing was a declaration of just how free they finally were. Yet we think of it as bondage.

Now, you may have learned these differently if you were raised Catholic, or you were raised Jewish, or if you were raised, like I was, as a Protestant. As a Protestant, we always read it as God saying, "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt...out of slavery." Almost as a declaration... Like, I am God, now listen to me. And then he gives his first command: you shall have no other gods before me.

	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Catholic</b>	<b>Protestant</b>
<b>I</b>	I am the Lord your G-d who has taken you out of the land of Egypt.	I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.	You shall have no other gods but me.
<b>II</b>	You shall have no other gods but me.	You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.	You shall not make unto you any graven images.
<b>III</b>	You shall not take the name of the Lord your G-d in vain.	Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.	You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
<b>IV</b>	You shall remember the Sabbath and keep it Holy.	Honor your father and your mother.	You shall remember the Sabbath and keep it Holy.
<b>V</b>	Honor your mother and father.	You shall not kill.	Honor your mother and father.
<b>VI</b>	You shall not murder.	You shall not commit adultery.	You shall not murder.
<b>VII</b>	You shall not commit adultery.	You shall not steal.	You shall not commit adultery.
<b>VIII</b>	You shall not steal.	You shall not bear false witness.	You shall not steal.
<b>IX</b>	You shall not bear false witness.	You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.	You shall not bear false witness.
<b>X</b>	You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.	You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.	You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

But if you were raised Jewish, you learned it different. If you were raised Jewish, then you learned it as "I am the Lord your G-d who has taken you out of Egypt." As the first command. It doesn't really sound like a command, does it? But reading it that way sets

a different tone over what Moses is about to give to the Israelites.

Then the second command for the Jews were what we read as the first command, and they just put the first two together. If you have no other gods

before me, then obviously won't be making graven images. you won't be taking idols for yourself... But for the Jewish people, it is so significant that god brought them out of Egypt. He rescued them. He saved them before he ever gave them any rules.. and obviously that is so significant to them because look at what he brought them out of! And look at the great lengths that he went to, to rescue them. But most of the time, for us, a culture that doesn't really know that type of bondage as anything more than a children's book that we learned a watered down version of in Sunday school, we just start with the rules, don't we? We start with "have no other gods before me" or sometimes we jump all the way to "thou shall not kill!"

And we forget, even from the very beginning... What God did for us. Who we were. The bondage and captivity we were under.

Now, in this series, we are going to look at the ten commandments from the Protestant perspective, the first command being "You shall have no other Gods before me" but today we are going to start just by exploring that little statement before God gave them any rules. First he reminds them:

I brought you out.

Deuteronomy 5 is the second account of the Ten Commandments. Its basically the same as Exodus 20. But it seems to be more of a recap... a few verses before it, in Deuteronomy 4:9 Moses says as a reminder... "Take Care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children."

Remember... What... God did for YOU.  
Lest you forget. Lest the grace you have been shown suddenly departs your heart.

Before God gave these people a single rule, he started with grace. He started by saving them. And by drawing near to them...

I absolutely LOVE what it says a couple verses before that, Deuteronomy 5:7 says "For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?"



What other gods are like this? What other gods are there when you call?

Jesus when he is teaching the disciples how to pray, he starts by saying, “pray like this:

Our Father, who art in heaven...”

And it feels so distant... It feels like God is far away and off in his world looking down on us counting how many times we break the commandments before we die so we can meet him in this “heaven” place where he can decide if he lets us in or not. But the word Jesus uses for heaven is the word *ouranos* and it actually can be translated as “air” - and so an appropriate translation of the Lords prayer would begin by saying “Our Father, who is as close to me as the air that I breath”

What other gods are as close to you as the air that you breath every moment of every day?

What other gods would even dare give themselves the name Father? Something so personal. Something so relational. Something so *relatable*.

Could there possibly be a god worth putting before our God, or even having at all?

What other gods saves you, and actually desires a relationship with you? What other gods brought you out of Egypt?

The Israelites were not in Egypt when God gave them the ten commandments. They had already been brought out.

In Exodus 34:28 it says “the Lord said to Moses, “Write these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.” So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights. He neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.”

God is saying... this is a *covenant*. Its not a weight.

and the word we translate as “commandments” is the word *dabar*, and it really has a much simpler meaning than you would think. It means words. So the Hebrews said it this way, “The Ten Words” - or like we said earlier, They called it a ten word *Ketubah*. It was the terms of their marriage.

In the Greek, the Ten Commandments are “*deka logos*” - again, on the surface, it means, “the ten words” - many of you who grew up in a Catholic tradition or Lutheran or any more traditional denominations, you have probably heard of the ten commandments referred to as “The Decalogue.” And this is where get this term from. From “*deka logos*.”

So "the Decalogue" is a pretty famous name for the Ten Commandments, and it is the way the Greeks translated it.

Well, *deka*, as we said means ten, and *logos* which we just said means word, comes from the word... "Logue" means logic... and in the Greek it is the principle behind reality. You know the phrase "it's only logical...." Well that may be a better way to look at the commandments... It's really pure logic. It's more of a reality than it is a law.

I heard a teacher named Frank Seekins explain it this way, Dr. Seekins has spent his whole life studying Hebrew word pictures, and he has an absolutely brilliant take on the ten commandments, which I am going to use as a bit of a foundation for our series, and here it is...65 miles an hour on the highway... That's a speed limit.



It's a law. But as long as you don't get caught, it's just a rule. Really, it's a theory. It's advice that if the police see you not following, they will give you a ticket. But you can bend that rule. You can bend that law. Generally the flow of traffic is more like 75, until you see a cop. Then everybody slows down... they hit their breaks, and they look around to make sure that they aren't getting pulled over. And when the coast is obviously clear, they slowly bring the car back up to around 75.

But if you are driving a semi truck on a road about to enter a tunnel, and the sign outside that tunnel there is a sign that says “clearance is 11 feet” and you know you the truck is 14 feet...



That's a reality.

What will happen is purely logical.

You don't stop, look around, make sure there are no cops, and then floor it through the tunnel. No. The same thing will happen whether you get caught or not.

No matter what you do, if you try to go through the tunnel, in that vehicle, you are going to have an accident.

No matter who is watching.

You have no choice but to stop. You have no choice but to find another way to the other side. It will destroy your truck.

A speed limit sign represents a law.

A “Do not Litter” sign represents a law.

But these, these are realities:



These signs indicate imminent danger that is beyond your control if you should chose to get any closer.

How many of you know, when you look at it this way, rules seem nice. Rules you can break. Most rules you can screw up some times, and even if you do get caught, you will pay a price, in most cases do your time, and move on.

But with these, there is no slipping through the cracks... There is no "NOT getting caught"... and in fact you may not walk away at all. And if you do walk away, there is permanent damage.

And that is the Ten Commandments. Each and every one of these, if you do not follow them... You are going to crash. You are going to get burned.

You are going to hurt yourself. You are going to hurt your community. It is going to destroy you. Not because God is mad at you because you did something he said not to do so now you are getting punished... No, it's not like that.

These things in and of them themselves are toxic.

They are gravity. You can't break the laws of gravity. It will always break you. Every time. You can try. You can jump off of the roof of a building.... But you are not going to fly. You are eventually going to end up flat on the ground.

So call it what you want... The Ten Commandments, the ten realities... In Hebrew it's "the ten words"... Because God spoke them. A lot of people call it "The Decalogue."

it doesn't matter. The title doesn't matter. What matters is the reality of what they are. Of what they mean in your life... and no matter what you call the ten commandments, the point is the same. These aren't rules. They are realities.

So that is what we are going to call this series, "Realities." And we are going to spend a a good portion of the fall really diving in and trying our best to understand these realities.

The ten commandments start with the conclusion. They start by God saying, I was, I still am now, and forever, I will be. I brought you out of that nasty disgusting life that you once had, and made you something new. Thats the conclusion for all of us, in all of our lives... that God wants a relationship with us. That he already rescued us, and now he wants to marry us... and here are the terms.

Its a marriage contract.

What is the first thing that has to happen in a marriage... you have to acknowledge, "this is my husband..." or "this is my wife..." and then what happens next? You commit... There will be nobody else. I will be faithful to you. I wont have other wives, or mistresses, other idols. I wont let people get between us. I wont let careers get between us. I won't even let *our kids* get between us. I wont do that.

I won't let another relationship make its way into our relationship. It is just you and me. I won't keep the past relationships that have been destructive, open. I will be faithful to you in body, mind, and spirit and in my heart because I have fallen so deeply in love with you. and who you are.

And I don't care about the past.

This can be very hard for people, especially if they are bringing the baggage of past relationships, especially past physical relationships into the marriage, but unless you decide from the very beginning that you are literally starting a *new* life together, apart from the old, then there will always be questions. There will always be demons. There will always be thoughts of uncertainty and insecurity roaming around in your minds. Its crucial, in a marriage, that you come to terms together, that from *now on*, its you and me.

I don't really care about *before*.

I don't care about the person you were before you met me. The people you may have slept with before you met me. The mistakes you made, *before*. They condition of your heart before, or who you gave it to, before I came into your life.

The only "before" I care about is the person who is standing *before* me *now*. Who is signing their name next to mine on this "ketubah" *now*.

Who is saying that from this day forward... I will be faithful to you and you alone. I give my heart to you, and you alone.

The Israelites were as big of a mess as they could possibly be when God rescued them. And the bible says that even after they signed that Ketubah, they were still unfaithful to God. They still broke Gods heart, and time and time again God ran after them. He pursued them.

What other gods are like this?

One of the strangest books in all of the bible is the book of the Prophet Hosea. In fact, it will shock you if you really let yourself fully comprehend what it is saying, the language is strange, but the message is incredible.

Hosea was a prophet. Prophets had a very distinct role in the Old Testament, they were the ones, really the only ones, who could speak on behalf of God. (Hebrews 1:1-2) tells us that "In the days of old, God spoke through the prophets." When they said things in those days like "Thus sayeth the Lord \_\_\_\_\_" it was as if God was actually saying it.

They held the highest of religious offices. There were not a lot of them. But God does something different in Hosea. He calls him, just like he calls all of the prophets of old... the book starts by saying "The word of the Lord came to Hosea..." God is telling Hosea, I am giving you something not many others have... I am making you a prophet. I am giving you the authority to speak *for me*.

But before you can speak for me, first, you have to *understand me*.

And this is what God said when he spoke to Hosea. He said (Hosea 1:2) “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.”

God asks Hosea to *strategically* go and marry someone who was so filled with filth. He asks Hosea to give his heart, fully... the heart that Hosea had been *saving* for that special girl...

God is asking Hosea to give up that dream of a perfect and pure wife, and give his heart fully to someone who hadn't saved anything for him. God says, “Give her everything. Fall in love with her. Let your heart be captured by someone who has a history of gross sin, and who is, no doubt, going to be unfaithful to you.”

That is jacked up. But understand why.

God is saying: Then, Hosea, you will be able to speak on behalf of me, because you will know what I went through. You will understand what I am *going* through as Israel continues to be unfaithful time and time again.

Israel's relationship with God was so screwed up, that God had to have *his prophet* marry a prostitute, so that he could understand the heart of God, and properly prophesy on his behalf.

Unbelievable.

And so Hosea goes and he marries Gomer.

And of course, she is unfaithful to him. From the start, and constantly. And before long, she takes off completely. She leaves... the bible says that she goes to pursue some other “lovers” and that she thinks that they are providing for her... but really, Hosea is taking care of her the whole time. He is providing for her behind the scenes and he is literally doing whatever it takes, be it going to these men and providing the money she needs... knowing that she is living with someone else and sinning against him.

and the whole time she thinks that these gross men that she is cheating on Hosea with, are the ones providing for her.

Hosea stays faithful... making sure that all of her needs are met even though she is living this sinful life with another man.

Then, in chapter 3, Hosea actually goes to whatever man Gomer is living with at the time, and he *buys* her back. He pays 15 shekels for her... Somehow, it had come to that. Somehow in Gomer's journey, she had found herself "For Sale"... She once was a bride, and now, she is being sold, like a slave.

He had to pay for her. As if he was buying a *slave*.

*She was Back in Egypt.*

There is speculation that by that point in her life, her lovers had grown tired of her and the whole deal had gotten boring, and that she was being sold as a prostitute and they were looking for a buyer who could take her off their hands completely.

And as you read this book the entire time it is correlating Hosea's relationship to his unfaithful wife, to the relationship that God has with Israel.

Did you forget? Did you forget, Oh Israel, that I am the Lord your God who brought you OUT of the land of Egypt? Who brought you OUT of the house of slavery?

How do you keep finding yourself back in slavery?

As you sit here this morning, do you find yourself forgetting? Do you grow numb as you sit in these hard wooden pews, to the fact that you were once a slave, and God brought you out... Do you forget that even after God brought you out, after he rescued you, you still were unfaithful to him? You still break his heart, yet he just keeps pursuing you.

Can you imagine being Gomer... knowing what you did. Knowing that you gave up everything, for a few quick thrills and worthless romances. Knowing that everything you thought you were pursuing was now obviously



fleeting... seeing in hindsight that it all let you down. and that the only one who was ever faithful to you was gone.

Not knowing, all along, that the only one who was ever faithful to you was being faithful the whole time you were away... who was behind the scenes making sure you had the money you needed, making sure you had the food that you needed, making sure you had the clothes that you needed.

And suddenly, you find yourself, lost... for sale... being sold into a life of bondage to the highest bidder... only to realize that the one who you thought you had lost had just bought you back.

He had been faithful, the whole time, without you even knowing it. And maybe she still didn't get it. Maybe she was like the prodigal son, who thought "even my Father's servants have a better life than the one I have now..." maybe she was wondering, "Am I going to be his slave now? It would probably be better than the last guy... this was the only guy that ever treated me with any dignity at all."

Who knows what went through her mind on the way home, and it doesn't matter. Because what we do know is when she got home she heard him say these words, "Gomer, I want you to be my wife. I don't want a slave. I want a wife... not just any wife. You. I want you to be my wife. He tells her, Gomer... I don't care about everything that happened *before right now*... But today, you don't belong to another man anymore... you belong to me... But you are not a slave, because I BELONG TO YOU too.

This is a marriage.

And Hosea just keeps telling this story, and paralleling it to Israel. Because Israel was unfaithful. Time, and time, and time again.

And we are Israel.

We are unfaithful. Time and time again.

We see the ten commandments and we see rules.

The Israelites, they grew numb to the Ketubah, and when they saw the ten commandments they too saw rules. And that is why they kept breaking God's heart. Over. and over. and over.

Remember the Sabbath? I can imagine God thinking: That is hard for you now? How about you remember when you never had a sabbath. When you just worked all the time, never getting a break, a holiday or a vacation. But I brought you out of that, Israel.

Thou shall not steal? Thou shall not kill? Thou shall not covet thy neighbor? That is hard for you now? How about you remember when you had no rights. How about you remember your fathers who were killed for no reason, and your wives who were taken from you just because a soldier felt like taking her... and you never saw her again.

How about you remember where you were before God brought you out.

Because we make it about rules.  
But God makes it remembering.

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the Land of Egypt, who brought you out of the house of slavery."

They absolutely broke God's heart, but he is so faithful.

he took care of them through it all, and he is so faithful, that even after all of that, he proposed *again*.

John 1:1 says that in the beginning was the word.

We talked about this last week. We ended the whole Fruit of the Spirit series by talking about how Jesus came in the flesh. and this was one of the scriptures we used:

in the beginning was... the... word. and the word was with God, and the word was God.

In the beginning, Was the *logos*.

And the *logos* was with God, and the *logos* was God.

Verse 14 says, the word became flesh.

The *logos* became *sarx*.

It is the same word that we translate as commandment, but really it means reality. Logic. Its only logical that Christ would do what he did for the bride that he loved, because that's what it means to be in love.

It means you give everything.

Jesus Christ came in the flesh, lived a perfect life, and was the perfect groom... and he did it, for the unfaithful. "But God demonstrated his own love for us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

He gave his very life for his bride, and he has promised to return for it. Revelation speaks of Jesus' return as being the "Marriage Supper of the Lamb."

The ten commandments begin by God redeeming his people... by God bringing them out, into somewhere *better*, proposing to them, and then laying out a few simple terms for their marriage.

The whole bible ends with Jesus, coming back in all his glory, for His wedding.

And yet we get caught up on rules... and we can get caught up on all the things that we have done wrong, and all the time that we have wasted, and the times we have been unfaithful... and I believe God is telling you this morning that if that is you, you are looking at the wrong thing.

Stop looking in the mirror. Stop looking at your unfaithfulness.

Start looking to his faithfulness.

Set your eyes on the God who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Set your eyes on the God who brought you out of the house of slavery.  
Set your eyes on the God who provided for you even when you were in the wilderness.

Who provided for you even while you were playing the Harlot.

Set your eyes on the God who, even after all of your patterns of unfaithfulness, is proposing to you *again*, right now.