

**One: Only Room for One**  
**Exodus 20:1-3**

*The Twilight Zone* – **Sebastian Cabot** – The curse was... got... wanted...

The DC Madame – Deborah Jean Palfrey

This A.M. we consider the first of the Ten Commandments. We generally assume that the Commandments are what God gives us to present ourselves to Him, but really, they are God's self-revelation.

The first Command: "*You shall have no other gods before me.*"

**Matthew 6:24** – "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

First, note how God sets it up – again, He presents Himself to us – not as Ruler – though He is, nor as Judge – though He is.

- "*I am the LORD*" – **Exodus 3:14** – Literally – "I am present is what I am" – He is the God who is intimately near.
- "*Your God*" – This title suggests force and strength – and often accompanies other names for God that describe – work of creation – sovereignty – majesty/glory – Intimacy... people – Salvation

**Psalms 88:1** – "O LORD, the God who saves me, day and night I cry out before you."

Putting these together – He is a God who comes to us, personally and completely.

- "*...who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*" – Obviously this is a reference to the Exodus.

So the story God is telling is a story of deliverance from slavery.

For Israel – Egypt – But for all Christ-followers it takes us deeper.

**David Gill** – "A god is whatever we bow down to and worship."

What the Gospel teaches is that because our true slavery is spiritual, anything other/less than the true God only deepens it, because it insulates our true need with layers of dependence that deceive us into thinking that we are safe, when in fact, we are not.

**Luther** – "That to which your heart clings and entrusts itself in, I say, really is your God."

Friend, what are the things your heart clings to?

True Love demands Exclusivity – no room for any other gods if God is your God.

**Where is the deepest dependency in your life?** That is your god.

Ask one simple question: **Can I let it go?** If you can't let it go, then you are a slave...

When we don't recognize God as God, **we** become the center of our universes – we have no room – no room for love – no room for loved ones – no room for compassion – no room for justice – no room for our neighbors – no room for life. Our hearts are clogged with self, and self-preoccupation and self-centeredness.

So God comes, and says, 'Take my hand and trust me, and follow me, and worship me, and know my Redemption and Liberating Grace.'

Here is what the Gospel enables me to do:

1. To tell myself and God the Truth (calling it for what it is) – admitting what is true
2. To flee to Christ in Faith and in Weakness
3. To Escape Myself and Live as I was Created to Live