

## **“Thou Shalt Love the LORD”**

Topic – The First Four Commandments

Text – Matthew 22:37-38; Exodus 20:1-11

Series – “The Commandments of the Lord”

### **The Commandments were given to impress upon Israel God’s person and presence.** (Exodus 19:16-20:21)

#### **Preface to the Ten Commandments** (Exodus 20:1-2)

1. God is the Lawgiver. (20:1)
2. God had authority to speak and to be heard. (20:2)
3. God was Israel’s Deliverer out of Egyptian bondage. (20:2b)
4. The Decalogue is God’s Covenant with Israel. (20:3-17)

The first four commands define man’s relationship with God, summarized by Jesus Christ in Matthew 22:37-38.

#### **I. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” (Exodus 20:3)**

#### **II. “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...[nor] bow down thyself to them” (Exodus 20:4-6)**

##### **A. Two-part precept of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment (20:4-5a)**

1. Nothing was to be made as a symbol of God who is a Spirit and therefore invisible. (20:4; Deuteronomy 4:12-15, 23-24)
2. The people were not to bow before or serve images and likenesses as symbols of God. (20:5a)

##### **B. Two-fold sanctions affirming God’s nature and character (Exodus 20:5b-6)**

1. God is a “jealous God”. (Exodus 20:5b)
2. God is a Just and Merciful God. (20:5c-6)