



## Session Two

# The Decalogue

Some keep the Sabbath going to Church --  
I keep it, staying at Home -- With a Bobolink for a Chorister  
-- And an Orchard, for a Dome

-- Emily Dickinson

### Orientation Texts

#### Exodus 20 (The 10 commandments)

1 Then God spoke all these words: 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 an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, 6 but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. 7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. 8 Remember the sabbath day, and 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; you shall not do any work — you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. 12 Honor your father and your mother, so 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 male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. The people request Moses as covenant mediator 18 When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, 19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." 20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin." 21 Then the people stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

#### Exodus 16 & 17 (Wilderness passages)

2 The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. 3 The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

**Active Listening:**

Acquisitive economics

Anti-Pharaoh covenant

**Overview**

1. Commandments 1, 2, & 3 say that God's holiness is not available for our partisan control
2. Commandments 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, & 10 are about "respect for the neighborhood"
3. Commandment 4, the keeping of the Sabbath, is the most radical of the commandments for our covenant life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

**Questions:**

1. What does Brueggemann mean by "God has not signed on"?
2. How do "acquisitive economics" hamper "the neighborhood"?
3. How does the concept of Sabbath counter the Pharaonic system of production and consumption?
4. What are some of Pharaoh's "modern modes" of seducing us?

**Your Personal Strategy to Counter Pharaoh:**

Brueggemann suggests several ideas for countering Pharaoh in this session. Name one discipline that you will commit to between now and your next meeting that will counter your Pharaoh.