

SHINEY OBJECTS | All That Glitters | Week 1
May 12, 2019
Exodus 20:1-2, 22-24; 2 Kings 17:38-41; Matt 6:21

Opening: In this series we pursue the following premise and question: “I am someone genuinely interested in living my life according to the principles and priorities that Jesus called the Kingdom of God. But I am also attracted to SHINY OBJECTS. Surrounded by all that glitters in American society, all that beckons and begs me to make IT the source of my security, status, and significance, I get distracted from God and the abundant life to which I want to be devoted.” Am I alone in this?

Context: Read Exodus 20. Imagine witnessing this scene as an escaped slave. These words are still before us today. *Are these rules or guidelines? What was God’s motivation behind their giving? How do you imagine yourself in this scene? Talk about it.*

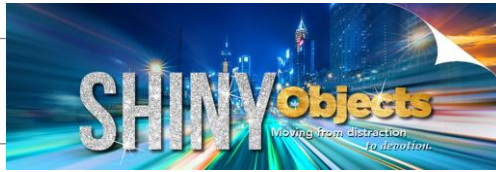
Protection from Slavery: Read Exodus 20: 1-2. Pastor Meyer opened with “Here’s the text or Tweet version (of those verses): ‘I don’t want you to be slaves.’” *What do you imagine that means today?*

A Society Instruction: Pastor Meyer says in description of the 10 Commandments “clues on how to avoid giving your life to dead things, and how to reverence the Source of your life”. He makes the point of considering a culture or a society built on these
Consider how to end that sentence. Are these rules or restrictions or motivations or Talk about what comes to mind when you consider this framework in our culture today.

Worshipping SHINY OBJECTS: Pastor Meyer summarizes God speaking to us as “Do not get distracted from Me and the great life I want to give you by worshipping SHINY OBJECTS.” *What in Exodus 20 is he referring to? Look through the passage and see where this applies.*

The IDOL: Author Michael Slaughter says that “An idol is anything that receives the primary focus of my energy or resources, which should belong to God.” “Idols are good gifts of God to which we assign a wrong priority.” *What comes up in you as you read this? Talk about it.*

Speculation: Pastor Dan speculates on things that might fit the IDOL category: sports, politics, comforts, entertainment, SCREENS of all types, chasing sex, maintaining youth, buying things.....
How do these strike you? What would cause these to be idols? Can you add to the list? Talk about any particular struggles you have had?



A Jealous God: Read Ex 20:5. Pastor Meyer makes the point our devotion matters to God. His jealousy is not a petty demand for our attention, it is a covenant commitment to us (like marriage) and the jealousy is His desire for us to return the same covenant commitment to Him. *How do you respond to this? Does it feel demanding? Talk about it.*

Our Covenant: Read 2 Kings 17:38-39 *How do you see your covenant with God? Is it a relationship obligation? How do you compare it to the context of marriage?*

Our Life Example: Read 2 Kings 17:40-41. Our devotion matters to those around us: family, co-workers, friends. We teach more with our lives than with our words. *Where have you experienced learning from another person's life example? Where do you imagine your life is influencing others today? What is that influence?*

Material Life: Read John 10:10. Pastor Meyer closes with this. "I know you will be pressed on all sides to pursue a mainly material life – a life whose constant clamoring cry is: "I want, I need, I have, I keep." But, remember, all that glitters is not gold." *What can you do this week to escape the "material life"? Talk about things that lead you to "the abundant life", it may help others in the group.*

Practice of the Week: Checking on your "checkbook".

Read Matt 6:19-21. The scarcity mindset (not enough to satisfy) is most evident in our time and money. Look at how you use your time (literally look at your calendar and measure how you are using time) and likewise look at how you are spending your money. There is no right or wrong here, but what would you surmise from this view of time and money? What are you devoted to? Meditate on Matt 6 and your results. Ask God to speak. Is there an idol at work?

Family Formation: What do you remember?

What can we pray about? Talk about something you learned from your Mom or Dad or maybe from a grandparent. How did you learn it? Was it from words and talking or was it from seeing them do something? Then ask your kids what they have learned from school. How did they learn it? Is there an example when they have seen people say one thing and do something different? The lesson is "how you live is more important than what you say".

Additional Resources: [*Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters*](#) (Penguin, 2009) Tim Keller

We'd love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you and your group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these scriptures and study guides in your lives.

Roger Peer: [contact through Eric](#) * Eric Haskins: ehaskins@christchurch.us