

THEME: YOU AND I

*“And God spoke all these words: ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.’
Exodus 20:1-3*

From the Old Testament to the New Testament, God constantly shows in various ways that He is a personal God, willing to establish a relationship with us. God reveals His love through "rescuing", while man responds to God's love by "obeying." In Exodus, God listened to the cry of the Israelites and saved them from the oppression of Pharaoh and the Egyptians. At the same time, God proclaimed the law and taught the Israelites how to establish a single, holy relationship with Him. In fact, the entire Ten Commandments and the laws in the Old Testament are based on the unique "you and me" relationship as seen between God and the Israelites; because God saved the Israelites with His mighty hands, the Israelites should be completely obedient in response to God's salvation.

The same principle applies to the teachings of the New Testament. When we decide to believe in the Lord and become a Christian, we not only accept or follow a set of beliefs or ethics, but also establish a harmonious and intimate relationship with God. Only when we experience the forgiveness of God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on the cross, shall we have the motivation to live a life that is in harmony with God and pleases God. When we face the many exhortations and commands in the Bible, ask God to help us, not only to see how strict these requirements are, but also to understand that He demands of us because He deeply loves us. He wants to save us from sin, give us a new life, and help us be holy - without guilt, completely belonging to Him.

REFLECTION

- Do I realize that the core of my faith is built on a relationship with God?
- Do I value my relationship with God so that when confronted with the teachings in the Bible, I am not unconcerned and indifferent, but willing to reflect deeply and ask for a renewal of my heart?

RENEW

- Pray that God will help us renew our relationship with Him day by day so that our life may continue to grow in the likeness of Christ.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that our church becomes one which deeply experiences God's love and seeks holiness.