

# ***I Am The Lord***

Exodus 20:1-21

October 8, 2017

## First United Methodist Church, Lindstrom

(This is a manuscript prepared for sermon delivery and may not represent actual words spoken.)

*"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery."*

This chapter begins with the words, "And God spoke all these words." Verses two through seventeen, then, comprise one long quote. The words are God's words. And these words are what we today call the Ten Commandments.

I would like for us to think about a couple of things.

First, think about the word "holy". Holy. We just sang about a holy God. What does "holy" mean? What does it mean to be holy? Holy means to be set apart. That's all. It is mostly a spiritual term. I suppose I could give some big fancy definition for those who like fancy definitions. I could use big words like "sanctified" and a few others in that definition. Most of you know me. I'm just not into that. "Holy" means set apart. But even more than that—at its very root meaning—"holy" means uncommon. A thing that is holy is not common. It is not like any other thing.

Now God is not like any other god. God is not like any other common, run-of-the-mill god. God is holy. And we who are God's children are to be holy. We are to be uncommon...not like other people. Scripture clearly teaches this. Peter wrote, "Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" At the end of that passage, Peter was quoting from Leviticus.

We are holy. This does not mean we are holier than thou. Holier than thou folks are really

quite a detriment to the kingdom. We are holy...not like any other people. Why? We will get to that.

The second thing I'd like us to think about is God's desire for people to know that he is God. That God is Lord. We talked a bit about Exodus last week. Now a bit more this week. One thing that appears all through the Old Testament is God's desire—and God saying—that God wanted the people to know he was God. Read the prophets. And here in Exodus...God sent Moses to Pharaoh. Those plagues? Before each plague God said, "By this you will know that I am Lord." There will be frogs, gnats, boils, and so on. And before each one God said, "By this you will know that I am the Lord."

So this is the deal with God. God wants us to know him. God sent Jesus so that we might be reconciled to God and know God...to know that God is above all gods...not like any other God. Jesus came as the way to God.

It is 2017. There have been too many hurricanes. Too many families have lost loved ones in senseless acts. How can people know in this climate that God is God? That God is Lord? We have to let them know. And how do we let them know? We really do not have to say as much as we think we do. We just need not to be like other people...be holy...be uncommon.

Terry, in last week's children's sermon, was right on. Remember last week the theme was complaining and how we really ought not to complain. We have nothing to complain about. God is among us. Terry mentioned how everyone seems to complain. Then he quoted from Philipians where Paul wrote, "Do everything without complaining or arguing...so that you might shine like stars...." Hey...we don't complain and