

September 20, 2007

## WFMCC Weekly

### The Ten Commandments: Fact, Fiction, and Faith



*"Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire - and the Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up."*

*-Exodus 19:18,20*



Dear Friends,

So often when we think of the Ten Commandments, we think of the scene described in the Bible verses above - the same scene made so familiar by the famous Hollywood epic produced by Cecil B. DeMille and starring Charlton Heston as Moses. Over the past few years a fierce debate has raged in our country regarding public display of the Ten Commandments in places like schools and courthouses. Polls often indicate that a majority of people in the U.S. approve of public display of the commandments, and yet, how many of us even know what they are?

Whether it is due to Hollywood's depiction of the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments, or because of the loss of open-mindedness and logic that too often accompany public disagreements, the truth is that as a society we no longer know what is fact or fiction about these moral laws, and we seem to understand even less about what they mean in the context of the modern-day practice of our faith. For instance, did you know that:

- Depending on who you ask, there are nine, 12, or even as many as 15 commandments?
- There were at least 300 years between the life of Moses and the writing of the commandments?
- Many of our public displays of the commandments came from a Hollywood publicity stunt?

These are just a few of the points we will explore this Sunday as we separate fact from fiction. In this fourth sermon of our "Sermons By Request" series, we will also take a look at Jesus' perspective when it comes to observing the commandments through the daily practice of our faith.

And speaking of faith, our very own "By Faith" will be performing this Sunday too - it's going to be a great day. I invite you to come and be a part of it all with your spiritual community, where you are always celebrated and loved - and that's a fact!

Many blessings,

*Lea*

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**1. Discipleship 101: Building a Close Relationship With God**

Do you long for a deeper relationship with God? Would you like to know more about what makes you "tick" spiritually? Do you wish you felt more connected to others at WFMCC? If you answered "yes" to any or all of these questions, then "Discipleship 101" might just be for you.



"Discipleship 101: Building a Close Relationship With God" is a 10-week course designed to help participants discover what being a disciple, or follower, of Jesus is really all about. The topics we will cover in the course include:

- Oct. 7th:** Discipleship Overview
- Oct. 14th:** What is Jesus Like?
- Oct. 21st:** What Does Discipleship Look Like? - Part 1
- Oct. 28th:** What Does Discipleship Look Like? - Part 2
- Nov. 4th:** Pulling It All Together
- Nov. 11th:** Time With God
- Nov. 18th:** Prayer
- Nov. 25th:** Devotional Bible Encounters
- Dec. 9th:** Pulling It All Together

having a difficult time keeping up with all the mowing that needs to be done at the church. The folks who have been doing the mowing week after week could really use some help.

We have all the equipment you will need - we just need your time and energy for about two hours once a month. (It goes a lot faster if you have a team of two or more!)

If you would be willing to help with this important ministry, please contact Lea at (940) 322-4100 as soon as possible, or by email at [lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org](mailto:lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org).

Remember - our building and grounds are our calling card to our community! Please consider helping us to continue looking our best.

## **Dec. 16th: Celebrating Together**

All those who complete "Discipleship 101" will be eligible to participate in a nine-week "Discipleship 201" course that will be offered next year.

Pre-registration is required to take this course, and there is a \$5 fee for each class (\$50 total per person); some scholarships are available. Please talk with our pastor Lea Brown if you are in need of financial assistance.

A serious commitment to attend all of the classes and complete weekly homework is also required. All classes will take place on the above listed dates at 5 p.m. at the church.

If you are interested in registering for "Discipleship 101," there will be a registration form with complete information available at church this Sunday.

**All registration forms must be received by Wednesday, October 3rd along with a minimum payment of 50% of the registration fee.**

For more information please contact Lea at (940) 322-4100 or by email at [lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org](mailto:lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org).

## **2. Collection for Faith Mission**

During the month of September we are collecting supplies for the amazing ministries provided by our neighbors across the street, Faith Mission.

Faith Mission provides meals for anyone who is hungry, a safe place to sleep for those who are without a home, a residential 12-step program for those recovering from substance abuse, a day labor program, and bedding, furniture and supplies for families in need. They help hundreds of people each year who are living in extreme poverty, and their theme is "From Hurt to Hope."

We can help Faith Mission provide that hope to so many who are hurting in Wichita Falls. Every Sunday in September we will have copies available of a list of supplies that Faith Mission needs. We will collect donations each Sunday throughout the month, and will deliver them to Faith Mission the first week of October. Let's work together to collect as much as we can to support our brothers and sisters in need.

### **3. CHANGE OF DATE: Follow-Up Meeting From the Men's Retreat**

All those who identify as male are invited to bring a brown-bag lunch and meet with our pastor Rev. Lea Brown on Sunday, October 7th immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. (Please note: this is a change from the September 16th date that was originally planned.)

We will talk about the recent men's retreat, and make plans for future events. Whether or not you attended the retreat, you are welcome to participate in this meeting. Come and help us build up our men's community at WFMCC!

### **4. Next Membership Class**

Are you interested in becoming a member of WFMCC, or would you like to know more about what membership means? If so, please plan on attending our next membership class, which will be held on Sunday, October 21st at 1 p.m. Please let Lea know as soon as possible if you would like to register for the class.



### **5. It's Time for WFMCC's Annual Garage Sale**

Each year WFMCC holds a garage sale to help raise funds to cover conference expenses. Our sale for 2007 will take place on Saturday, October 6th in the church backyard. We need your donated household and clothing items to help make this fundraiser a success.

If you have items you would like to contribute, please bring them to the church on any Sunday between now and October 6th, or on October 4th and 5th after 2 p.m. We will not be picking items up this year - you must bring them to the church to make your donation. If you have large pieces of furniture you would like to contribute to the sale, we can arrange to help. Please talk with Kathy Carr or Lea Brown for assistance.

More details will be available soon about other ways you can help on the day of the sale. Be sure and save the date on your calendar; nobody does a garage sale like the folks at WFMCC!

### **6. WFMCC Change Drive Continues**



Now that we are in the final four months of 2007, we haven't got much longer to fill up the two five-gallon containers in our sanctuary with loose change. Our goal is to collect "Ten Gallons of Change for 20 More Years," and together we can do it!



There are cups labeled "10 for 20" in the back of the sanctuary next to the change containers. Take as many as you like for your home, vehicle, workplace, etc., to help you collect your change. You can bring the cups back with you to church any Sunday and pour your coins into the containers.

Both containers are half full at this time. Please help us fill them all the way to the top by December 31st. Every penny, nickel, dime and quarter will help us continue our ministries into our 21st year and beyond.

#### **7. Board of Trustees Meeting**

The regular monthly meeting of our Board of Trustees will take place this Sunday at 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

#### **8. Break the Barrier Update**

Many thanks to everyone who has been contributing to our Break the Barrier Fund. Our current total is now \$2,996! These funds are set aside each month to fund our dream of hiring a full-time director of music and worship. With the continued faithfulness and generosity of the WFMCC community, we can be assured that we will be able to make this dream come true.

The next Break the Barrier offering will be received on Sunday, October 21st.

#### **9. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests**

**Prayer requests for** Mando and Vince...for Heather and her sons...for Nicole...for Ron's father's health...for healing for John...for healing for Laura...for safe travels for Karen.

**Wichita Falls MCC**

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