



Episode 3—Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today

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Rev. Adam Hamilton (Senior Pastor, The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas) in conversation with **Rev. Nicole Caldwell-Gross** (Mobilization & Outreach Pastor, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, Indiana).

Episode Recap

What if the Ten Commandments were not just a set of ancient rules, but a guide to experiencing the good life today? In his new study, Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. Lent is a season of reflection and repentance, so it's a perfect time for studying the Ten Commandments, as they are guideposts to a beautiful life. In fact, in our church history, the Ten Commandments were used during Lent as liturgy.

The Ten Commandments reveal how God wants us to order our lives, so in this study, Hamilton explores what they are, how did Jesus teach them, and how do they relate to today.

In the first chapter, Hamilton writes, “When I began my study of the Ten Commandments, I could think of five or six of the commandments I wrestled with in one way or another, but the first commandment didn’t come to mind. The more I reflected on what constitutes a false god, however, the more I realized that this might be the commandment I am most tempted to break.” He and Nicole Caldwell-Gross discussed those false gods of modern life and temptations specific to ministry leaders. This commandment about false gods is really about reflecting on what is at the center of your life.

Jesus' teachings of the Ten Commandments makes them even harder because he made them about the heart. You're happier by doing them—this way of thinking about the commandments is radical and life-giving. The Ten Commandments have much to say to our culture today. What happened at the Capitol on January 6 violated many of the commandments. For example, in these actions we see the catastrophic results of bearing false truths. We must reflect on what our primary identify is and who is our God. The Ten Commandments teach us how to do community; without them there is chaos.

The Ten Commandments are God's direct words to God's people—by re-examining them, every single one offers a new challenge for a better life.