

MAIN POINT

In order to live the best way possible, we must put our devotion to God above everything else.

INTRODUCTION

Are you the type of person who typically creates a list of resolutions each year? How do you typically do in sticking to these resolutions?

What are some resolutions or hopes you have for this year?

Typically we make resolutions centered around the things we want to change in our lives to live in a better way. The Bible is clear that the best way we can live is in complete devotion to God. As we heard in this week's message, in order to do this we must begin with God and then prioritize the rest of our lives from there. If we try to fit God in along the way, our priorities will be out of line and our lives will show it. In order to live this year in the best way possible, we need to begin with a right relationship with God.

DISCUSSION

> **READ EXODUS 20:1-4, MATTHEW 22:37-38, AND MATTHEW 6:33.**

Why do you think God prefaced the First Commandment in Exodus 20 with a reminder about Egypt?

What "other gods" might the Israelites have been tempted to worship?

Given God's description of Himself, what makes idolatry so offensive?

Is this command more about God making sure He gets the honor He deserves, helping people avoid misplaced priorities and wasted lives, or a combination of both? Explain.

We may not struggle with serving carved idols, but what are some modern-day idols people worship? How do these idols impact our relationship with God?

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5, the original law Jesus cited as the greatest commandment in Matthew 22. Why was it important for the Israelites to proclaim the Oneness of God? What makes loving God the greatest command?

The Great Commandment emphasizes loving God with all your heart, soul, and might. What do each of those aspects of a person's being represent?

Why do you think loving God comes before loving others?

What does it look like in practical terms to love God with your heart, soul, and might?

What is the promise of Matthew 6:33? How does this apply to living in the best way in the coming year?

APPLICATION

As you think about your hopes and dreams for the coming year, what needs to change in order to prioritize devotion to God above all else in your life?