



Devos for May 3-10, 2025

## "The Neglect of God"

TEN Series, Week 2

### DAY 1 – First Things First

**Read:** *Exodus 20:1–3*

**Meditate:** The first commandment doesn't start with a prohibition, but with a proclamation of relationship—"I am the Lord your God." God isn't distant or generic; He is personal, present, and faithful. We often neglect God not by denying Him, but by giving our ultimate trust, affection, or identity to something or someone else. Idolatry begins not with statues, but with substitutions of the heart.

**Reflect:**

- What competes with God for my deepest trust or affection?
- How can I return to loving God first—above all else?

**Practice:** Write "I am the Lord your God" somewhere visible today. Let it center your thoughts when distractions arise.

### DAY 2 – When We Try to Shrink God

**Read:** *Exodus 20:4–6*

**Meditate:** God cannot be reduced to something manageable or manipulated. Graven images aren't just ancient artifacts—they're anything we use to tame, shrink, or redefine God on our terms. We make God in our image when we craft a version of Him that fits our preferences. But the real God is holy, transcendent, and lovingly jealous for our hearts to remain undivided.

**Reflect:**

- Where have I tried to manage or remake God's image?
- Do I find myself preferring a "tame" God—one who agrees with me and can be controlled?

**Practice:** Reflect on this quote from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. Aslan represents God:

"Aslan is a lion—the Lion, the great Lion."

"Ooh," said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he—quite safe?"

"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver. "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

### DAY 3 – The Weight of the Name

**Read:** *Exodus 20:7*

**Meditate:** To carry God's name is to represent Him—and that's never a light thing. We take His name in vain not only through profanity, but also by hypocrisy, manipulation, or hollow religiosity. When we use His name to appear spiritual, win arguments, or excuse sin, we empty it of its weight. But His name is meant to be carried with reverence, truth, and love.

**Reflect:**

- How have I used God's name carelessly—through words or actions?
- What does it mean to carry His name with honor in daily life?

**Practice:** Before speaking or acting "in God's name," pause and ask: "Does this reflect who He truly is?"

## DAY 4 – More Than a Statue

**Read:** *Isaiah 44:9–10*

**Meditate:** Idols promise control and satisfaction but deliver emptiness. Isaiah mocks idols of wood—half burned, half worshiped. Today's idols aren't carved, but they're just as powerless: success, image, comfort, relationships. God invites us to trust what is eternal, not hollow. Only He can satisfy our deepest hunger.

**Reflect:**

- What idol do I keep returning to for meaning or security?
- How is God better than what I've settled for?

**Practice:** Name one modern idol you've been tempted to trust. Renounce it in prayer and choose to trust God instead.

## DAY 5 – The Call to Whole-Heartedness

**Read:** *Deuteronomy 6:4–5*

**Meditate:** Neglect of God happens through divided hearts. But God doesn't want just part of us—He calls for all of us. Wholehearted love leaves no room for idols, pretense, or substitutes. The Shema (this ancient Jewish prayer) reminds us that true worship begins with allegiance, affection, and attention given fully to the One who alone is God.

**Reflect:**

- Am I loving God with all my heart, or only part of it?
- What would it look like to love Him more fully today?

**Practice:** Pray the Shema aloud. Then give God your full attention for five minutes in silence.

## The Shema – Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

<sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

<sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

<sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

<sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

<sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.