



ethical monotheism

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DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Towards the beginning of the video, Mr. Prager shares with us one of the significant aspects of the first statement in that, "...it asserts that God is giving these commandments." Why is it so crucial that it be God giving the commandments? What would be different if it were Moses who gave the commandments instead?
- After explaining how ethical monotheism validates morality by having it sourced from an objective higher power, Mr. Prager explains that, "The other meaning of ethical monotheism is that what God most wants from us is that we treat other human beings morally." How does this second aspect correlate to the first? What does it mean to treat other humans morally? Why is treating others morally so important, both to God and to us?
- Mr. Prager goes on to point out that, "The third critical teaching of the First Statement -- "I am the Lord your God who took you of Egypt, out of the House of bondage" -- is the importance, and the meaning, of freedom." What is the meaning of freedom? What is the importance of freedom?
- Mr. Prager answers this last question by further revealing, "...one other equally important lesson about freedom imparted by the opening statement of the Ten Commandments: what freedom means. The Giver of the Ten Commandments is, in effect, saying: "I took you out of slavery and into freedom, and these Ten Commandments are the way to make a free society. You cannot be a free people if you do whatever you want." Freedom comes from moral self-control." Why can't society be free if people do whatever they want? What exactly is 'moral self-control,' and how do we achieve it?
- Towards the end of the video, Mr. Prager states that, "...by telling us that He liberated the Hebrew slaves, God made clear that He cares deeply about human beings. It is impressive to create the world. But what most matters is not only that there is a Creator, but that the Creator cares about His creation." Why is the condition of God loving his people so important? Why is slavery so bad?

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: Ima Matul

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article "I was a modern-day slave in America," then answer the questions that follow.

- Who is Ima Matul, and how did she become a slave? How did language play a part in Ima's story?
- What do you think motivates people to exploit and abuse others? Why do you think that slavery is such a widespread problem in the modern era? Why were Ima's captors never held accountable for their terrible crime?
- Do you think that God had anything to do with her escape? Why or why not? We learn in the video that the first statement shows that God cares for his people -- so do you think that God cares for people who enslave others? Why or why not?



QUIZ

I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD

1. The 10 Commandments are _____.
 - a. the way to make a free society
 - b. the blueprint for Socialism
 - c. merely suggestions on how we should live our lives
 - d. not revolutionary

2. What does the First Commandment assert?
 - a. God is giving these commandments.
 - b. God is the One who delivered you from slavery.
 - c. You are obligated to follow the nine commandments that follow.
 - d. All of the above.

3. What does ethical monotheism mean?
 - a. God is the source of ethics and morality.
 - b. Many gods are the source of ethics and morality.
 - c. It establishes a list of things that humans must do “for” God.
 - d. Morality emanates from human opinion.

4. Jews and Christians disagree on the enumeration of the Ten Commandments.
 - a. True
 - b. False

5. What is the thing we can do “for” God?
 - a. Offer animal sacrifices.
 - b. Treat all His other children decently.
 - c. Offer sacrifices of food.
 - d. Memorize the entire Hebrew Bible.



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<http://money.cnn.com/2013/11/21/news/economy/human-trafficking-slave/>

I was a modern-day slave in America

by [Steve Hargreaves](#) [@hargreavesCNN](#) November 25, 2013: 1:18 PM ET



Hundreds of thousands of people are held as modern-day slaves in America. Many are forced laborers working as housekeepers, dishwashers, or in door-to-door sales. Ima Matul, above, was one of them.

For three years, Ima Matul was held captive and forced to work as a domestic slave, right here in the United States.

In 1997, a then 17-year-old Matul was working as a housekeeper in her home country of Indonesia. The family she was working for had a cousin in Los Angeles who was looking for a nanny, and Matul was offered the job.

"Of course I was very excited," said Matul, now 33. "Who doesn't want to come to the U.S.? It seemed like a great opportunity at the time."

As soon as she passed through customs, the woman who she'd be "working" for confiscated her passport. At the tony house of her employer just outside Beverly Hills, the \$150 a month she'd been promised never materialized. Her captors, who are also from Indonesia but naturalized American citizens, told her they were holding it for her until she returned to Indonesia. She did not get her one day off a week.

Over the next two years, things got worse. She worked seven days a week with no pay. She was the victim of various threats and assaults -- she was taken to the hospital when a salt shaker was thrown at her.

"She was threatening me, saying that if I ran away, the police would arrest me because I didn't have my passport, and that I'd be thrown in jail where I'd be raped," said Matul, who didn't speak any English at the time.

Finally she managed to piece together enough English to compose a letter that she slipped to a nanny working at a house nearby. "Please help me," it said.

Matul was one of an estimated 20 to 30 million people worldwide currently being held as [modern-day slaves](#). Hundreds of thousands are thought to be in the United States.

To many Americans, forced labor is something that's thought to take place in other countries. Human trafficking in the United States is largely assumed to be an issue related to prostitution and sexual abuse.

Yet over 20% of the calls received by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center since 2007 have been non-sexual labor related, according to [a report](#) released Thursday.

Domestic work was the most common area of forced labor, followed by restaurants. Peddling rings and traveling sales crews were also popular, and mostly used children.

These operations sold everything from magazines to cleaning supplies. They often use some type of front -- like kids selling candy to raise money for a "sports team."

Last month, two men in Florida were [busted](#) for packing children into a van marked "teens against drugs and alcohol," and using the kids to sell household wares door to door.

The children are often recruited through newspaper or online ads promising quick cash, and then taken out of their neighborhood or state. They are kept under the control of their captors through the threat of abandonment.

While Matul's captors were foreign born, experts say they see both foreigners and longtime Americans caught up in the schemes.

"There is no profile for a trafficker and no profile for a victim," said Keeli Sorensen, director of national programs at the Polaris Project, which runs the trafficking hotline. "It could be just about anybody."

While greater attention has been paid to trafficking in the United States in recent years and laws are on the books preventing the practice, Keeli said there needs to be more money allocated for both law enforcement training and victim services.

Part of the problem, she said, is coordinating the efforts of the various agencies that might come into contact with trafficking victims -- which could include everyone from customs agents to vice detectives to labor inspectors.

"It requires a lot of partnerships with a lot of folks who may never have worked together before," Keeli said.

It could also include someone like Matul.

After passing that note to the neighboring nanny, Matul received instructions a few days later to have her bags packed and waiting in the garage. The nanny had shown the note to her employers, who arranged an escape.

At the predetermined time, Matul slipped out of the house, grabbed her bag from the garage, and met the neighbors in a car waiting around the corner. They took her to a shelter run by CAST -- the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking. Her captors were never prosecuted, she said, as the case was too difficult to prove.

Matul spent the next fifteen months in the shelter, while she also went to school and got a real job cleaning houses.

"I got \$85 for eight hours of work. I was so happy," she said. "It was the first time I got paid."

After receiving her GED, she got a job as a file clerk in a law office, and an apartment with a roommate.

Now, she's married with three kids, and is the Survivor Organizer at [CAST](#).

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