

EXODUS

CHAPTERS 16-40

TRUSTING GOD'S PROMISE IN THE
WILDERNESS



JANUARY 2021

Day 1

What is the most amazing meal that you have ever eaten, a meal that left you thanking God for food? What was it about that food that made it so amazing?

One of the most amazing meals I have ever eaten was at the Old Mill restaurant in Massachusetts for my bachelor party. We had pre-selected dishes that we wanted served and then they just kept bringing out the food until we were done. The best part was that it was free to me. I could eat as much as I wanted, and it did not cost me a dime. I did not leave hungry that night. We can all remember meals like that. They were memorable. A few months ago we looked at the first part of the book of Exodus and now we will spend this month looking at the second half of the book. We will see episode after episode of God's people wondering and doubting whether God was going to follow through on his promises to them. We are going to see the Israelites sin, their repentance and God's incredible blessings on them despite their sin and rebellion. We start with looking at the story of the manna from heaven. Ask God to teach you some incredible truths today and this month as you study the book of Exodus.

Read Exodus 16

Why were the people of God grumbling to Moses and Aaron? Why is this awful when you think of all they have experienced?

Describe how God provided for his people, despite their grumbling?

What were God's stipulations for gathering the manna and quail?

When you read this story, what do we see about the character of God?

God provided for his people. Describe how the people did in obeying the Lord?

What ways has God provided for your needs? What ways have you in turn rebelled against God?

1. How he has provided –

2. How you have rebelled against God -

PRAYER - Repent of your sin. Thank him for providing for your needs.

Day 2

What is a situation in which you needed to exhibit a lot of patience so as not to do or say something you might regret? How were you able to be so patient?

As a parent there are numerous situations where in my humanity it could be very easy to lose my cool with my children. There many situations where this could occur. Many times it is little things like, “how many times have we told you to clear your dishes when you are done eating?” or “how many times have I told you to pick up your toys?” Then there are the times when your sons and daughters are constantly fighting and picking at each other over every little thing. It is enough to drive a parent completely and totally insane. If it wasn't for patience, we would really be in trouble as parents. I hope as you continue to read through this section of Exodus that you discover how incredibly patient God is. He put up with so much from His people and continues to do so. Ask God to show you that patience he has, and you should have as you read today.

Read Exodus 17:1-7

Summarize the situation the people of God find themselves in?

How do they react to their situation?

What were Moses thoughts and emotions as this situation unfolds?

How do we see that God is very patient in this story?

Even more important, how do we see that God is a God of grace and mercy?

How does this story point us to Jesus Christ?

What is something you have complained to God about? What sin is behind your complaint (there usually is)?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you not to complain but to trust Him fully.

Day 3

Raising your hand can be a powerful or effective thing to do. Take a moment and think of several things that raising your hand can do.

I wanted to give you a little list of how raising your hand is powerful and effective. If a policeman raises his hand while standing in the road, cars stop. When a conductor raises his hands the whole symphony or band immediately raises up their instruments getting ready to play. If a teacher stands at the front of a class room and raises her hand, the room gets quiet. At a rally people raise their hands together symbolizing their unity and power together as a body. These are just a few examples. The people of God have been complaining about food and about water and God has provided miraculously for their needs. Now the people of God are about to deal with enemies who threaten their very safety. How will God provide for His people? Ask God to teach and encourage you as you read Exodus today.

Read Exodus 17:8-16

Who was the commander of Moses army? What are a couple things that you know about this gentleman?

Where is Moses in relation to his army?

How do we know that the result of this battle was not about Joshua's strength, craftiness or knowledge or about Moses strength and determination?

How do we see that this battle belonged to the Lord?

In verses 14-16, how were the people to remember that the battle was about God and not about them? Why is that an important reminder?

What is a battle in your life you are trying face on your own and not trusting God?
Why are you struggling to trust God?

PRAYER – Give that situation to God in prayer today.

Day 4

You are elected king or queen of a country. You quickly realize that you are responsible for many things and you cannot do everything yourself to ensure your country runs smoothly and that needs are met. You need to delegate responsibility to other people so they can help you run the best country possible. What do you think would be easy about delegating responsibility to other people in helping you?

What do you think would be difficult about delegating responsibility to other people?

As a youth pastor, you want to meet with every student, talk with them, help them with their problems and pray with them. I quickly realized that I physically cannot do that myself and last long in ministry. It is not possible unless you have like a youth group of 4 or 5 people. I know I need help. God has blessed me with so many wonderful leaders and interns over the years who have helped me out in ministry by helping lead worship, run small groups, teach when I can't be at youth group, run service projects and meet with students that I cannot meet with. These leaders have been an absolute blessing. Moses was in charge of thousands of people who left Egypt. They had problems and disputes and Moses was the one everybody went to. Today we will see how he handled that great responsibility. Ask for help in understanding God's Word today.

Read Exodus 18

How was Jethro an important person in the life of Moses?

How did Jethro encourage Moses to rethink how he was leading God's people?
What suggestions did he make to maximize Moses leadership?

Look at verses 21-22. What qualifications did Jethro give to Moses to look in men who would help him lead the Israelites?

If Moses would take Jethro's advice seriously, what did Jethro say would be the result of a plurality of leadership in verse 23?

How does Jethro's idea of leadership point us forward to the model of leadership in the church?

What ways do you pray for and encourage the leadership of your church?

PRAYER – Pray for the leaders in your church specifically.

Day 5

What are some things that define who you are as a person that set you apart from other people? (Take time and think about this one and write down what comes to mind.)

Your name sets you apart from other people. You were give a combination of names that is unique to you and in the outside chance that maybe somebody shares all 3 names as you, the place you live, your parents, what you do will set you apart from that person that may share a name with you. There are so many things that all taken together show who we are. God's people, the Israelites were set apart and different from the world. They were unique. God wanted them to know they were special and that they needed to show they were special, that they were not like all other people. Ask God to show you today the lengths he went to in order to help his people to see there were to be different.

Read Exodus 19:1-15

As all this unfolds, where is Moses and where are the people in verses 1 to 3?

What does God want to remind Moses and His people about who He is and what He has done in verses 3 and 4? Why do you think they need the reminder?

In verses 5 and 6 how will the people show that they are the Lord's? How will that make them different?

What was the people's response to Moses words in verse 8?

In the rest of this section what were the people to do and not do to show that they were serious about following God?

How do we see that God took these commands serious?

Are you Christ's? How do you know? If you don't know, why don't you know? Talk to someone about it today.

PRAYER – Ask God to help you live for him as His child.

Day 6

If somebody were to ask you to describe God using some kind of picture or metaphor, what would you use? Describe your picture. Why did you use that picture?

Scripture is full of word pictures that describe God. He is a vine, a pillar of fire, a cloud, like the wind, etc. Many of the writers of the Bible used imagery to help us understand who God is and show key things about his character. Our passage today will show us some important things about the God that we serve. Ask Him to help you see who He is and why that is important in your walk with him.

Read Exodus 19:16-25

How is God described in this passage? How would you characterize God based on this reading?

What do we see in these verses about man's relationship with God?

Who had the special privilege to get closer to God?

What did God want Moses to do?

How serious was God that the people were not to come up the mountain, that they were not even to touch the mountain?

Despite the boundaries and rules, how do we know God wanted a relationship with his people?

Think about the last year, what have you seen more clearly about who God is?

PRAYER – Thank God for His character and what He has done for you.

Day 7

If you think over all you know or have heard about the Bible, what would be the top 3 stories or passages that you know you have heard repeatedly whether in Sunday School or reading with your families? Next to each one write down why that is your top one.

1.

2.

3.

Today and tomorrow we read through the 10 Commandments. This is something we have had to memorize from childhood to adulthood. You have memorized them to get prizes, to sing songs, to pass ordination exams as pastors, etc. The Ten commandments are found here and in Deuteronomy 5. They are listed twice. That means they must be important. They are. Commands 1 to 4 talk about our relationship with God and commandments 6 to 10 our relationship with men. Ask God to teach you something new as you study these familiar verses today and tomorrow.

Read Exodus 20:1-11 (put 12 to 17 on next day)

Who did the 10 commandments come from according to verse 1? Why is that an important truth we need to believe and hold on to?

Look at verse 2, what is God reminding the people about as he gives them these commandments to follow? Why do you think he prefaced the commandments with this reminder?

Read the verse or verses and write the commandment and next to each commandment write 2 or 3 specific things that you need to do or not do to follow that commandment.

1. Verse 3 –

2. Verses 4 to 6 –

3. Verse 7 –

4. Verses 8-11 –

Which of these commandments is the most challenging for you in your life?
Explain why.

PRAYER – Pray that God would help you follow his commandments.

Day 8

Look back to yesterday, what are 3 ways you know you have sinned against God in the last month?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List 5 ways you know you have sinned against other people in the last week.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

We sin everyday against other people. Gossiping, being disrespectful with a teacher, arguing with a brother or sister, cheating on a test, saying something mean to a player on another team, lying to your parents and the list goes on. We wrong people all the time. In so doing, we have also wronged God. Today we look at the last 6 commandments which are to guide how we treat other people. Ask God to take these familiar verses and use them to challenge you when it come to your faith and walk with him.

Read Exodus 20:12-17

Read the verse or verses and write the commandment and next to each commandment write 2 or 3 specific things that you need to do or not do to follow that commandment.

1. Verse 12 –

2. Verse 13 –

3. Verse 14 –

4. Verse 15 –

5. Verse 16 –

6. Verse 17 –

Which of these commands are hardest for you to obey? Why do you struggle with it? What can you do to help you follow it better?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you obey and follow Him.

Day 9

What was the most terrifying thing you have ever experienced in your life? Why was that so terrifying to you?

Before I was married I lived with 3 guys in an apartment in Delaware. One night about 2 or 3 in the morning we heard a knocking on the door of the apartment and as I woke up there was a little bit of smoke in the room. The people knocking on the door were the firemen. They were evacuating our building because somebody set a fire to a storage space in the basement. That was a terror filled few minutes as I got my shoes on, grabbed my cat that would not come from under the bed. I guess I sort of risked my life for her. We then all made for the car and went off to a 24 hour restaurant to hang out for a little while before we could go back to our apartment. I was pretty scared in those moments of not knowing where the fire was and would I be able to get out of the building. We all have a terrifying experience at some point in our lives. Ask God to convince you of his truths and help you to love and fear Him as you read today.

Read Exodus 20:18-21 (put 22 to 26 on next day)

God was speaking the commandments to Moses. While that was happening, what were the people seeing from their vantage point in verse 18? What would have been spectacular about seeing this happen?

What was their reaction? What did they do and say? Why do you think they reacted in this way?

Why do you think they did not want God to talk to them but Moses?

What did the people see about the character of God? What did they see about themselves in that event?

In general men are afraid of powerful people or events. It shows we are not in control at all. When you think of God and all his power, what scares you about God? Write down a couple things below.

PRAYER – Thank God for his power and ask for help in trusting him.

Day 10

Can you think of 3 things from the Bible that God asked me to build for him? Write them down and next to each one write why God asked them to build it.

1.

2.

3.

If God appeared to you and asked you to build something for him, what would you say? What would you think? What would you do?

Noah was asked to build an ark. Moses and the people were asked to build a tabernacle. Abraham, Isaac and numerous others were asked to build altars. Solomon was asked to build a temple. Ezra was asked to rebuild the temple. Nehemiah was asked to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. God asks His people to build things at times and then we see how he worked in their lives and the lives of his people. Ask God to show you what he wants you to do to show you believe and follow him with all your life.

Read Exodus 20:22-26

What was God saying to Moses and his people in verses 22 and 23?

How can we take that command and apply it to our lives and situations today?

What specific things does God give to Moses in how he was to be worshipped and not be worshipped in verses 24 to 26?

Why do you think God was so specific in how he was to be worshipped and how he was not to be worshipped? What was and is God's point?

What are ways in which you fear the Lord? How should that make you want to worship Him even more?

PRAYER – Help to worship God appropriately: with love, fear and awe.

Day 11

What are most ridiculous laws or rules you have ever seen or heard about in your life? Next to each one right why you think it is ridiculous.

If you took time to look up rules and laws in your town I think you would be surprised at some of the laws and rules that we are to abide by as citizens. Many of these ridiculous rules are not enforced and nobody even knows about them. In this one town in the Midwest it was against the law to walk on the grass. How do they mow the grass? Somebody has got to walk on it to push the mower. What if my child who is running down the side walk decides to take a stroll on the grass, who goes to jail now? It is a silly law but one that should be followed none the less. Exodus is filled with lots of laws and rules that were given to Israel to set them apart from the rest of the world. These laws would show they were God's people and so they were important. It is so easy for us to just skip these portions of our Bible because we don't follow them today as Christians. But we should read these rules that God thought important enough to command His people to follow them. This is a long section to read but more of today's devotion is reading through these laws. Ask God to teach you something new that you can apply to your life as you read these laws today.

Read Exodus 21:1-23:19

What are 5 things that jump out to you as you think about the laws God gave to his people.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What principle in 21:23-25 is God laying out for his people? How do you see that principle applied in the verses that follow? How do you see that principle lived out today in our lives and culture?

How serious does God take our care of widows and orphans in 22:22-24? How can we minister to these two groups of people in the church today?

Why do we need to be careful about who we hang out with in 23:1-3?

What does God remind his people about in verses 22:21 and 23:9? Why would he repeatedly remind them about how they were once not a people and didn't have a home?

PRAYER –Give thanks for hope, salvation, redemption and rules to help us follow God. Ask God to give you a desire to serve and follow Him.

Day 12

What is the biggest promise that somebody gave you that you looked forward to seeing fulfilled? Why did or do you look forward to that? What did you or do you have to do in order to see that promise fulfilled?

I used to love McDonald's cheeseburgers. I guess I still do to some degree. I played baseball in Little League for 8 years. My grandfather used to go and watch my games. I knew that when Grampy came to a baseball game that he was going to buy me a cheeseburger for every single hit that I got that night. That was his promise to me. You can know that as a 9 year old boy that I wanted to get not just one hit, but a hit every time I was up at the plate. I had quite a few cheeseburgers that summer. My grandfather followed through on his promise. God brought his people out of Egypt and he was leading them to Canaan, the Promised Land. He promised. To see the fulfillment of that promise, the people would have to follow God. We read about that promise today. Ask God to help you see his promises to you as you read His word.

Read Exodus 23:20-33

In verses 20-22 what do we see that the people would have to do if they wanted to "get" the Promised Land, which is Canaan?

How do we see in these verses God is serious about their obedience?

If the people are obedient what does God say will happen in verses 22-31? List all the ways in which God would bless and provide for his people.

God said that this wouldn't happen overnight, but the Promised Land would be theirs in time? Why did God say it would need to happen a little bit at a time?

What is the caution that God gives to his people in verses 32-33? Did the people give heed to this caution? What did they fail to do?

God has promised you so much as a follower of Christ, eternal life in heaven worshipping the Lord. No pain or suffering. Eternal hope and peace. What idols are tempting you to trade all that in for temporary satisfaction?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you desire to follow his word and cast off your idols.

Day 13

What kinds of things might you do or give to seal a deal with somebody to show them that you will be faithful to your side of the deal or promise? Why would you do or give that thing?

Two things come to mind for me. I can remember being a child, maybe even in junior high, and in order to show somebody that I was going to keep my word I would offer the infamous pinky swear. That carried a lot of weight as a child whether it was letting somebody in front of me in line or that I would be their friend. The biggest human commitment though was putting the ring on my wife's finger. I was promising to stay with her through sickness and in health, through good times and bad, until death do us part. That is a pretty big commitment, a big promise. Today we are going to look at how God confirms with His people His covenant promises. Ask God to encourage you in your faith as you read His word today.

Read Exodus 24

The people have a pretty intense encounter with the Lord. How did they respond in verse 3? Would they keep that commitment? What would happen?

What does God use to seal his covenant with the people? How does this foreshadow Jesus Christ?

In verses 9 to 18, what are some pictures or glimpses of God that Moses and the people get? Write down each picture and what is important about that picture.

Moses and Joshua then leave the people and go up the mountain. How long are they up on the mountain?

How does their time on the mountain also foreshadow Jesus Christ? (If you don't know look up Matthew 4:1-2.)

Think about how Moses life points us forward to Jesus Christ. Let that sink in. What does that show you about God's perfect plan of redemption that is found only in Jesus Christ?

PRAYER – Thank God for his perfect plan, for our redemption in Jesus Christ.

Day 14

I want you to think about the sanctuary at your church. Take a moment and list at least 5 things that are in the sanctuary of the church and what their significance is when it comes to the public gathering for worship.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

We often take for granted the things that have been placed in the sanctuary to aid us in our public worship. We don't appreciate them. We don't think about them. They often are not significant to us. It would be tempting to skip many of the next chapters of Exodus as they only describe things that are in the sanctuary. Yet for whatever reason God saw fit to include in detail these objects that would be in his sanctuary. So we will look at these objects. Ask God to help you find truths in these furnishings that will encourage you in what it means to follow the Lord.

Read Exodus 25

According to verses 1 to 9, who would make contributions to the building of the tabernacle? Why is that important?

Following is the list of articles in the tabernacle. In your own words describe the object and its importance to the tabernacle.

The Ark of the Covenant – Verses 10-22

The Table for Bread – Verses 23-30

The Golden Lampstand – Verses 31-40

What is something that you have learned as you read about these objects today?

PRAYER – Thank God for the blessing of worshipping in our building.

Day 15

What do you like best or think is most meaningful about the sanctuary of your church? Why?

What do you like least? Why?

Ask God to help you be thankful for your church's worship area and to help you worship him in spirit and truth every time you gather for worship.

Read Exodus 26-27

Just like yesterday, read the about the following parts of the tabernacle, summarize in your own words and why that object was meaningful in worshipping God.

The Tabernacle – Chapter 26

The Bronze Altar – 27:1-8

The Court of the Tabernacle – 27:9-19

Oil for the Lamp – 27:20-21

What are two thoughts when you think about how God commanded his tabernacle to look?

1.

2.

PRAYER – Pray for wisdom in the upkeep of the physical church building.

Day 16

Being honest, what do you think is appropriate and inappropriate for the pastor or minister of your church to wear while leading in worship? What has led you to believe that?

It is easy to get caught up in what people are wearing or not wearing in church on Sundays. There is always a debate as to what is appropriate for worship. Should people wear suits and ties, polo shirts and khakis, shorts and t-shirts? The opinions differ across the board. Then we turn to the pastor. To robe or not to robe, that is the question. The pastor doesn't want to be a distraction but to lead the people in worship and we don't want our dress to be a distraction to people hearing the truth as it is preached. Well today we see that God had a specific way in which he wanted the priests in his tabernacle to dress. Ask God to help you mine for precious nuggets of truth in His Word today.

Read Exodus 28

God went into great detail in commanding what the priests needed to look like. Define and describe the various parts of the priests' wardrobe below.

Ephod – verses 6 to 14

Breastpiece – verses 15-30

Robe – verses 31-35

Plate of gold – verses 36-38

Coat, turban and sash – verse 39

Look at verse 43, how serious does God take how the priests are to dress for their duties in the tabernacle?

Why should this challenge us a little bit as we think about how our pastors/ministers and even people dress for worship?

PRAYER – Pray for our attitudes as we approach worship.

Day 17

Who are people that you would consider as having “special” duties in the church? List them down below. Next to each give an explanation.

The elders in Christ's church go through a lot to fulfill the office that the Lord has called them to. First God has called them. Then they go through a time of training and testing. After that training and testing they are voted in by the people of the congregation who want to see them serve in the church, representing them and their spiritual interests. It is a pretty intense process that isn't for everybody but for a chosen few that God has chosen to serve in those offices. Ask God to open your eyes to his truths in regard to leadership in the church as you read today.

Read Exodus 29

What is your reaction to seeing how the priests are described in this chapter?

What are key actions or attributes of priests in this chapter?

What had to be shed to set apart the priests to the Lord's service? Why is this important?

When you think about how the priests are set apart to serve the Lord, how does this all point us forward to Jesus Christ as our great high priest?

As God sets up these commands in how worship is to be carried out in his tabernacle, what does he remind the people about in verses 45 to 46?

Do you feel your church takes serious the role of the leaders in the church? How do they take it seriously?

PRAYER – Pray for the leaders in your church by name.

Day 18

Do you think your church puts too much stress or not enough on the physical building? Explain your answer.

The last few days have possibly been hard for you to get into the study of the word. Most don't like to read the details of tables, garments, candles, walls of buildings, etc. Some of you probably have been tempted to just skip ahead a few days and get to the Golden Calf incident. You want action. You want intrigue. Yet, we need to step back and remember that God has given us everything in His word to point us to himself and our need for Him. God thought it was important enough for His people at the time and for us today to include the intimate details of the construction of the tabernacle. Ask God to fill you with awe and wonder in how He has put together His word and how He worked in the lives of His people.

Read Exodus 30

How would you describe the altar of incense in verses 1 to 10?

What important thing needed to be done in verse 9? How did God view this action by the priesthood?

What are some things you learn about the census tax in verses 11 to 16?

What surprising thing do you read about who gives and how much to this tax in verse 15? Why do you think that is?

Describe the Bronze Basin found in verses 17 to 21.

We are told several times in verses 22 to 38 that the anointing oil and incense is holy to the Lord. What does that mean? If used wrongly, what does God say will happen?

PRAYER – Praise God's perfect plan for his people and how they worship Him.

Day 19

When you think of your church, who are the key people or groups of people that help the church function physically and spiritually? Take time and write down as many people or groups that you can think of and next to each name or group write down the role they play in the church.

A lot of times when we think of the church and its ministries we usually think of the people who are visible like pastors, elders and ministry leaders. There are so many more people that contribute to the success of the church. There are many people who work behind the scenes that you will never see and rarely hear about. Today we will read about some men that were critical in the construction of the tabernacle. Ask God to fill your heart with thanks for his people who serve in His church as you read the scriptures today.

Read Exodus 31:1-11

How is Bazalel described in this passage?

What were Bezalel, Oholiab and their assistants entrusted to do in building the tabernacle?

How were these men able to carry out the job entrusted to them according to this passage of scripture?

Moses received the blueprint to the tabernacle from God as we see in verse 11. What did he have to do to see the tabernacle come to fruition? How do you see that this is a total team effort?

How have you contributed your talents and gifts to the building of Christ's church? What is hindering you from being active in building up the church?

PRAYER – Ask God to show you your role in building up His church.

Day 20

What are some things that you believe are allowable to do on Sundays (the Sabbath)? Why are these things allowable?

What are things you believe should not be done on Sundays? Explain your answer.

How we observe Sundays, the Sabbath, has led to many Christians debating one another. Should we be allowed to do yard work, homework, go out to restaurants, get gas for the car, shop, watch a game on TV, play ball in the backyard, etc.? Some say the Sabbath day is a flexible day that can be observed whatever day we want to observe it. There is a lot of discussion that spans across denominations. Today God gives Moses the commands regarding the Sabbath. Ask God to help you put aside your own thought and beliefs and listen to and interact with His Word as he intended it to be.

Read Exodus 31:12-18

Look at verse 13. What are we showing others when we observe the Sabbath?

What were the consequences for those who did not observe the Sabbath properly? How does this show God takes the Sabbath seriously?

What does God say about how we observe the Sabbath in 15a?

Now look at verse 17, how does our Sabbath observance point back to God and who God is and what God has done?

If you really stop to think about Sundays and how you observe the Sabbath, what are some things that you do or don't do that you need to rethink?

PRAYER – Ask for help to honor, observe and keep the Sabbath day holy.

Day 21

When is a time you got so angry with someone who did something wrong that you ended up breaking something? Why did you break that thing?

We all get angry and often times our anger is justified in that somebody did something wrong, hurt us or hurt somebody close to us. Many of us even in our anger end up breaking some inanimate object so we don't hurt a person. Sin should make us angry. We should never become blasé about sin. The question is what do you do or say when you are angry? That is where many of us sin. Jesus made a whip and drove people out of the temple. He did not sin in his anger. He was righteous and holy. Today we are going to read about the Golden Calf incident and how God and Moses were both angry. Ask God to teach you and help you apply his truths to your heart and life.

Read Exodus 32

How would you summarize this story in your own words?

What were Aaron and the people's reason for making an idol of gold?

What do we see about the Lord's anger in verses 7 to 10? How does Moses plead with the Lord?

What does Moses do in his anger in verses 19 and 20?

What were the consequences of the Israelites sin?

How would you describe Aaron and the Israelite's faith?

What is an "idol" in your life that you are trusting in more than the Lord?

PRAYER – Confess that idol and ask for strength to ground it up.

Day 22

When you think of God, what is your favorite picture that is used to describe him? Why do you like that picture?

If we were all asked to paint a picture of God when we think of Him, just about every picture would be different. Some would have pictures of gardens, birds and other items from creation. Some people would paint something about judgment and wrath. Others would use some kind of everyday object to try to capture some of God's attributes. The Bible is full of imagery to try and help us understand who God is and what he does. Today we get to experience one little piece of that imagery. We left off yesterday seeing God's anger against his people for constructing the golden calf. Ask God to help you know him better through the pictures given us in His word today.

Read Exodus 33:1-11

Where was God sending His people? What was God feeling towards his people in light of their latest sin?

What was the Israelites reaction to God's anger and disappointment?

How would you describe the tent where Moses met with the Lord?

Why do you think the tent was outside of where the people lived?

How is Moses interaction with the Lord described? How special was that relationship?

How is the picture of Moses going out of the tent to the people and back to God a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ?

PRAYER – Thank God for sending Christ to die for us.

Day 23

Who is somebody that you would do almost anything for to make sure they are okay and that no harm comes to them? Why is that person so special?

That is an easy question for me to answer. Immediately my wife and children come to mind as I love them so much. I only want them to have the best. I want to shield them from anything bad that could happen to them. But as I think about the question even more I think about the teenagers the Lord has privileged me to work with and I would do almost anything to make sure they came to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. They have been entrusted to me by God. Today we get to see Moses love for his people in how he intercedes for them before the Lord. Ask God to give you a passion for the people in your life, that you would love and care for them, as you read his word today.

Read Exodus 33:12-23

What did God say he wasn't going to do initially in this passage?

What is Moses reaction to what God said he was going to do?

What do we see about Moses love and care for his people?

What is Moses request of the Lord?

How does the Lord answer Moses request in verses 19-23?

What differences between God and man do we see in the Lord's response to Moses desire to see his glory?

What is one thing you would like to see or know about God?

PRAYER – Ask God to show you who He is.

Day 24

What is an experience where you saw who God was, and saw who you were as a sinner in need of God's mercy so clearly? Describe that experience.

I am a man with a plan. I like to know what is happening before one day comes to pass. The times I have seen God most clearly are the times when things were not going according to my plan. I would be angry, frustrated, and wondering what I was doing that was wrong. I needed to see that I am not God, that my plans and ways are not God's plans and ways. I have seen this lesson in several different ways over my 25 years or so of being a Christian. I have seen this in leaving college for a semester, in my marriage, in difficult ministry situations. God was there to gently show me He was God, that He had a plan and that I could trust that plan. I am sinful and in need of God's grace and mercy. I need to continue to learn that lesson. Today we get to see a pretty neat experience that Moses has with God. Ask God to use that experience in Moses life to encourage you and grow you in your faith.

Read Exodus 34:1-9

What happens in verses 1 through 4?

What does God then do in verse 5?

Write down all the things that God says about himself in verses 6 and 7.

Now think about your walk with the Lord. Pick 3 things from the list of what God says about himself, write them down and what that means for you.

1.

2.

3.

What is Moses reaction to God showing him His glory in verses 8 and 9? What does he do and what does he say?

Write a prayer of praise and confession when you think about who you are as a sinner and who God is to you.

PRAYER – Pray your prayer

Day 25

What is something important that you have repeated to somebody? Why did you feel the need to repeat that?

When something is repeated it shows that it is important, not to be taken lightly or without thought. Many times teachers will repeat instructions about a test or about a paper because they want to make sure you have the best chance to get the best grade. Your parents when you are a child will remind you many times to not touch the top of a hot stove. Why? They don't want you to burn yourself. They want you to stay safe. When you are a teenager your parents will go over the rules over and over again for times out with your friends, a significant other or some other big event because they want you to know what is expected of you and how you can honor and respect their rules.

Read Exodus 34:10-28

Look at verse 10, how important is God in the life of His people?

In verses 11 to 16, how does God want His people to be different than ungodly people?

Which of the 10 commandments do you see in the remaining verses of the passage?

What other laws does God give to Moses to give to His people?

Look at verse 24. What will the Israelites need to remember that they often will forget? Why do you think they continually forgot this truth? How can you remember this truth in your life?

How do we see Moses pointing us forward to Jesus Christ in verses 27 and 28?

PRAYER – Thank God for his law to show us that we are to be different as followers of Christ.

Day 26

What is the brightest thing that you have ever looked at? How long were you able to look at it? Why did you have to turn away from it?

I can remember at times when somebody would dare you to stare into the sun for 5 seconds. I could only get a glimpse and it would hurt my eyes. After looking away I would see a green circle and everything else would be somewhat dark or dim. Men were not meant to stare at the sun. It can literally blind you. You need to have something to buffer your eyes so you can look up at the sun. Enter sunglasses. Moses wanted to see the glory of God. God said okay but you cannot see my face or you will die. You can see the back of me as I go by you. Today we look at how those times with God changed Moses physically and impacted the people of Israel as they looked on Moses. Ask God to open your heart as you read his word today.

Read Exodus 34:29-35

Describe the change that happened to Moses physically because of his interaction and time with the Lord.

What was the reaction of the people to Moses changed appearance?

Why do you think Moses removed the veil before the Lord and put it back on before the people?

How is this a good picture of the relationship God's people have with God?

What are ways in which you can spend with the Lord that are comparable to the time Moses spent with the Lord?

What are ways in which that time with the Lord should change your life?

PRAYER – Thank God for changing your life. Ask Him to keep changing you.

Day 27

If somebody were to ask you to describe your church building, not the sanctuary which was in an earlier devotion. How would you describe it? Share details.

Again it would be easy to skip the last 6 chapters of Exodus because they don't seem as engaging to us today. Why should I be concerned about the dimensions and what the tabernacle looked like? Just before the Golden Calf incident we were given details about the sanctuary and now we turn our attention to the Tabernacle and its construction. Ask God to give you an appreciation for your church building as you read Exodus today.

Read Exodus 35-36

I want you to do something different here. Try to draw a picture of the tabernacle based on what you read in these two chapters.

In verses 1 to 3, Moses mentions the Sabbath again. What does he say about the Sabbath here?

Look at verse 29, how did everybody get a chance to be involved in the construction of the tabernacle?

How do we see that the work of Bezalel, Oholiab and the other craftsmen was not something they did in and of themselves but was all about God?

How can you show that you appreciate the talents God has given you? Are you doing it? How or why not?

PRAYER – Thank God for your talents, ask how you can use them to serve Him.

Day 28

What is the biggest thing you ever put together using a step by step manual?
What did you feel upon completion of the project?

I decided to go to Lowe's and buy a shed because it was time to get the outside equipment out of the basement of the house. I bought what I thought was a simple take a weekend and do it yourself shed. The instructions seemed pretty simple. I quickly realized this was not a one weekend project and was not one I could do by myself. I didn't know how to angle the ceiling beams in without splintering the wood. I didn't know how to stabilize the walls so the shed didn't sway. I didn't know how to put the flashing and shingles on the roof. I needed help. I needed other skilled people. I had the directions, but I didn't have the talent. The shed went up, was solid and before loading all the equipment in it, my wife and kids had a sleepover in that shed. In Exodus 25 to 30 God told Moses how the sanctuary and tabernacle was to be constructed and in chapters 37 to 40 we see the people actually putting everything together. It was a team effort. Ask God to give you a sense of awe of who he is and what he has done as you read Exodus today.

Read Exodus 37-38

Describe in your words the piece of equipment the people of God were making:

The Ark – 37:1-9 -

The Table – 37:10-16 -

The lampstand – 37:17-24 -

The Altar of Incense – 37:25-29 -

The Altar of Burnt Offering – 38:1-7 -

The Bronze basin – 38:8 -

The court – 38:9-20 -

Materials for the tabernacle – 38:21-31 –

Why does all this matter anyways? What is the takeaway for your relationship with Christ?

PRAYER – Praise God for His church and his love for details.

Day 29

What are some things that you have been “commanded” to do in your life? List 5 things and next to each thing write who commanded you and why?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

We are given commands many times, in many places and from many different people. Our parents give us rules that we need to follow whether in our chores, choice of friends, dating rules, etc. In school our teachers tell us the right way to do work, behave and what it means to be a good student. When we get a job we will have bosses who will lay out for us their expectations for us in performing our jobs. I think you get the point. Most importantly though is that God in the Bible has laid out commands for his people, not to be a cosmic killjoy but to show his people that they are holy and set apart from the world. Let us read the last two chapters of Exodus today. Ask God to help you appreciate Him, his word and the commands He gives to us.

Read Exodus 39-40

What phrase do you see over and over and over and over again in these two chapters of Exodus?

What does this phrase show us about God's plan and purpose for his people?

Summarize chapter 39 in your own words regarding the priestly garments? What are some key points that are made?

Summarize the erection of the tabernacle in 40:1-33. What are some key points to call attention to in this section?

What is the point of constructing the tabernacle according to verses 34 to 38?

Our bodies are temple of the Holy Spirit. How are you bringing glory to the Lord through your life?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you glorify Him through every aspect of your life.