



the rescue.

stories from Exodus

February 23-

Read Exodus 22

Exodus 22 is all about property and social responsibility — two concepts that seem irrelevant in a culture where most of us don't own animals or pay a bride price. You might even think, "I'll just skip this chapter." But Exodus 22:3 foreshadows a major theme throughout the Bible: "Anyone who steals must certainly make restitution, but if they have nothing, they must be sold to pay for their theft."

As people born full of sin, we are the thieves Moses writes about in Exodus 22. Our nature is to steal what isn't ours — the gift of sex before we're married, the tithe that God asks us to bring to the church. And as thieves, we have nothing with which to make restitution for our sins. Without Jesus, our only option is to "be sold to pay for [our] theft."

To make restitution is to restore things to how they should be. We could never restore what we've stolen. We are not rich enough or powerful enough to make things right on our own. But Jesus, who is both divine and human, can. Jesus came to pay our debt, to restore what we have stolen, while only asking that we turn to Him, love Him, and steal no more.

Reflect:

What's one thing your sin has stolen from you? How have you seen Jesus restore what was lost?

In John 5:46, Jesus says, "If you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me." What are one or two ways you've seen the book of Exodus point to Jesus either directly or indirectly?



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February 24-

Reflect on Exodus 22 and take a few moments to write down your own prayer

February 25-

Read Exodus 23

A plentiful harvest doesn't happen by accident. A farmer spends considerable time fertilizing the soil, tilling, planting, and watering the seeds and plants. But perhaps the most important factor a farmer considers is timing. No matter how well he cares for his crops, if they are planted too late or too early, they will not thrive.

Timing matters.

In Exodus 23:27-30, God explains that a good thing at the wrong time is no longer a good thing. God promised to drive out the Israelites' enemies so they could take possession of the land. This was a good thing. However, God explained that they would have to settle the land gradually. If God cleared out their enemies all at once, the land would become a wasteland, filled with dangerous, wild animals.

To the Israelites, the thought of waiting was discouraging. They had been wandering through the desert without a permanent home since God delivered them from slavery in Egypt. The Promised Land was so close, they could taste it. But, if they did not accept the gradual process of God driving out their enemies one-by-one, they would never be able to enjoy the land and thrive there for generations to come.

Just as the Israelites desired a permanent home immediately, we often want solutions from God immediately. We want the better job now. We want to be healed now. We want to be married or have children now.



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But often our immediate solution is like planting crops in January. No matter how good our solution seems, if it is not the right timing, it will not benefit us in the long run.

In Romans 8:28, the Bible teaches us that in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him. This means that in the midst of our discontentment and impatience, we can trust God to work things out for our good, even when we don't understand His timing.

Reflect:

Why is it so hard to trust that God's timing is better than yours?

What is one issue you are facing today that you would like solved immediately? What can God teach you while you wait for His perfect timing?

February 26-

Reflect on Exodus 23 and take a moment to pray through these prayer points:

1. As one who is made holy and set apart, ask God to help you do right toward others.
2. In light of our culture of compromise, ask God to help you courageously stand for truth, justice and righteousness.
3. In a fast-paced and highly distracted society, ask God to help you prioritize what is good in His eyes.

February 27-

Read Exodus 24

Few things are more painful than watching a talented team fall apart. It happens in every Olympics and every World Cup. A nation puts its most talented players on a team but forgets that talent will only get a team so far. Without unity, players pull in different directions and the team never reaches its potential.

Divisiveness stops teams from winning games. It also stops churches from seeing the good news about Jesus spread farther and faster than we ever dreamed.



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In Exodus 24, the Israelites experience the true potential of the church. When Moses shared God's laws with the Israelites, they replied with one voice, "everything the Lord has said we will do" (Exodus 24:3). They were unified in their answer, and "they saw God" (Exodus 24:11).

In 1 Corinthians 1:10, the apostle Paul emphasizes the importance of church unity, saying, "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought."

Satan wants nothing more than to draw our focus away from Jesus with petty, divisive bickering. When Christians argue about politics, policies, or procedures, we lose focus on our mission: to love God, love people, and love doing it together.

Divisiveness slows the work God wants to do in and through us. But when churches value unity more than ideology, the good news about Jesus spreads like all-consuming fire throughout the world (Exodus 24:17).

Reflect:

What's one way you've seen divisions in the church push people away from Jesus?

Why do you think unity matters so much to God?

What's one step you can take this week to build unity instead of division in the global church? Maybe you need to forgive someone or reach out to an old friend. Will you do it today?



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_____ stories from Exodus

February 28-

Reflect on Exodus 24 and take a few moments to write down your own prayer.

March 1-

Read Exodus 25

Have you ever tried to put together a dollhouse? The instructions go on for days. It's hard enough to figure out what an A screw is, much less what it's supposed to fit into.

The attention to detail in kids' toys is nothing compared to the attention God paid to every detail in the tabernacle. The tabernacle was a revolutionary idea — a place where God would live among His people. God's instructions were so specific they would make toy designers scratch their head. What was the reason for so much detail?

The items God told the Israelites to use to make the tabernacle — gold, silver, bronze, fine linen, spices, and gems — were not ordinary building materials. These were high quality, top of the line, valuable items. God asked Israel to give Him their best, and He promised to do the same in return (Exodus 25:8-9).

This emphasis on giving God our best wasn't just for the Israelites. God wants us to worship Him with our best as well.

Giving our best is not about how much we give or how fancy our church is. Man focuses on the size of a gift, but God cares about the heart behind it (1 Samuel 16:7). When we give God our first and our best, not our leftovers, it shows that we trust Him and value Him above all else.



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Reflect:

What do you value most?

Is there anything in your life that you would not be willing to give to God if He asked? If so, you just identified an idol in your life.

What's one step you can take this week to give God your best?