

Friday, March 16, 2018

**Snare**

Exodus 23-24

*"Do not let them live in your land, or they will cause you to sin against me, because the worship of their gods will certainly be a snare to you."*  
Exodus 23:33

God is letting the nation know that He is preparing a way and a place for them. There are people in the land they are going to that will lead them away from God. He tells the Israelites how important it will be for them to not let these people live with them. If they do, they will be led into sin. Just having the people around them will cause them to sin. Not "maybe." "Will." It is certain. God even says, "certainly." This will be hard for many reasons. It will require work to move these people out. It will seem unfair. It would seem easier and would make more sense to just not pay attention to them. But also, what those people were worshiping would seem attractive. It would be much easier to just join in. It would also be more sinfully pleasant to join in and worship their gods. This same thing can so easily happen to me. Instead of going through the hard work to get false gods out of my life and home, I convince myself that I can just live safely with those things around. Then I get sucked into worshiping those things. I need to apply this verse to every aspect of my life. I can't let any false influence have any type of priority over my life. I must protect myself so that I will not sin against God, convincing myself it is ok.

*Dear LORD, fight with me—go ahead of me to rid my life of any such influences that are a snare to me. Please overwhelm me with Yourself and Your presence alone. Amen.*

March 12 - 17, 2018

Saturday, March 17, 2018

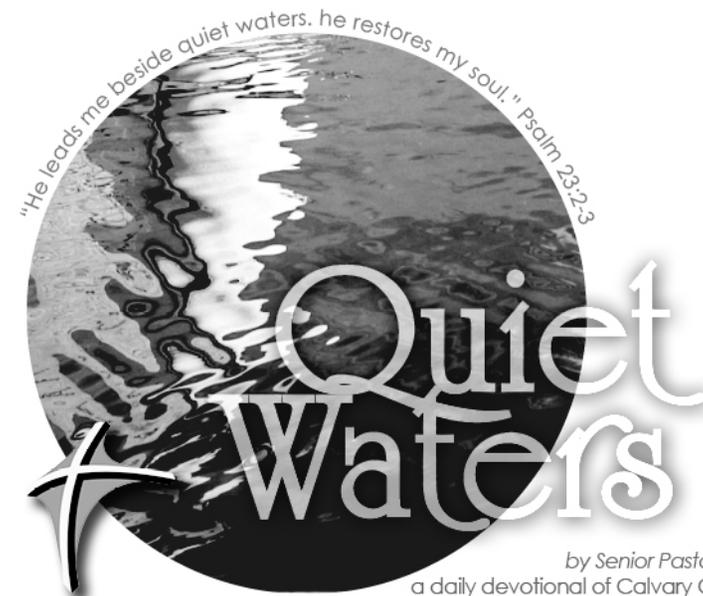
**Exactly**

Exodus 25-26

*"Then, have them make this sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you."*  
Exodus 25:8-9

God is getting ready to dwell among His people. This is such an amazing passage in the Bible. God is telling Moses how to go about building a tabernacle in which God will choose to dwell among the Israelites. God tells Moses how to construct this tent. It will be funded by people who are prompted to give. Special things will be given sacrificially for the tabernacle to be built. Those special things will be used to build according to the Tenant's specifications. God is clear that the place where He will choose to dwell must be built exactly the way He has designed—right down to the smallest detail. This helps me consider how I am paying attention to where God has chosen to dwell now. God has come to dwell in me! I have given my life to Him and He has come to live in me. He abides in me. There are so many details He has given me of what He has designed for His dwelling place to be. I am a temple of God. As such, I must radiate all that God is—holiness, humility, love, kindness, goodness, gentleness, submission, justice, joy, passion for the lost, generosity, selflessness, meekness, mercy, peace, and so many other characteristics that He is bringing to life in me.

*Dear Lord, help me have Your dwelling place be exactly the way that You have designed it, so that You can radiate out of my life and display Yourself to the world. Amen.*



Monday, March 12, 2018

## Opposed

Exodus 15-16

*"In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble."*

Exodus 15:7

In this amazing song of celebration of the LORD's deliverance, I love the line that declares that God was defeating the Egyptians because they were opposed to Him. It would have been entirely plausible for them to rejoice that God had defeated their enemies, but they were allowed to see what had truly happened. He shattered the enemy. It is so important that I see that there is an anger that God has toward sin. It is real and it is a burning anger. Only His grace allows me to move out from under the destruction that comes to those who are opposed to God. Jesus has propitiated that wrath for me by His death. His death appeased the wrath, which was surely what I deserved. As I continue to read the account of the Israelites, I can't help but notice that it is God's grace that keeps them from being consumed. So often they appear to be opposition to Him as well, yet He is patient. Are there things in my life that place me in opposition to God? I celebrate it when He comes and fights for me and defeats those who are opposed to Him when I also feel they are opposed to me. But what about when it is something in me that needs to be defeated? Am I ready to celebrate that as well?

*O my Lord, how often I find my actions in opposition to You even when my heart longs to be right in step with You. Battle the things in my life that are opposed to You! Amen.*

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

## Tired

Exodus 17-18

*When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side and one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset.*

Exodus 17:12

In so many ways, Moses seems larger than life. He is entrusted with one of the greatest tasks of all time. In a day and age without technology to communicate, he is tasked with keeping as many as two million people united. And that has to happen as he leads these people on a walking journey through enemy land. He is certain of the presence of the LORD. He spent a lot of time with the LORD. This is one of the most important things I can learn from Moses. A new enemy attacks them. God has defeated Egypt. He will now defeat the Amalekites. But this time, Moses needs help. His arms have grown tired and two men come alongside. Apparently, Moses is not too proud to take the help—and the men are more than willing to offer. Together they are able to do what is needed for Joshua to fight the battle and overcome the enemy. As I do battle for the LORD, I must know when I need help and I must know when I am tired. I need to be watching for where others need help in their weariness. There is too much at stake. There are others who are fighting and we each need to be doing our part.

*Dear LORD, please help me know when I am too tired to fight alone. Help me remember that if I need help, You know, and You will provide that help as I fight for You. Continue to bring those people into my life so that we can fight together for You. Amen.*

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

## Misuse

Exodus 19-20

*You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.*

Exodus 20:7

As I was growing up, I learned that this command meant not to use God's name in a derogatory way. In other words, to fashion a swearword out of it (even if it is only in initials). But there is much, much more to this command. God's name is all that He represents and stands for. The Israelites are God's chosen people. As such, they bear His name. If they do not keep themselves pure, then they misuse the name and the name is given to them in vain—it is a waste or worse. God speaks very clearly in Malachi chapter 1 of how He expects His name to be proclaimed by His people. "It is you, O priests, who have shown contempt for my name," He says. They will not be held guiltless for that. The LORD's name is to be great. That means that His people must not misuse it. I must remember this. I must proclaim His magnificence at all times with my thoughts, words, and actions. I must not misuse the name that has been entrusted to me. I bear the name of Jesus. When He saved me, I became a follower of Christ. I am a Christian! I do not want anyone to think less of Jesus because of me. I do not want to spend my time on foolish things that misappropriate the trust I have been given. I do not want to misuse His name.

*Dear LORD, if I am honest, I have misused Your name plenty of times. I repent. Please LORD forgive me and lead me to use Your name on my life for Your glory only! Amen.*

Thursday, March 15, 2018

## Holy

Exodus 21-22

*You are to be my holy people...*

Exodus 22:31

God is building a nation. A holy nation. It started with the promise to Abram and continued as He took His people to Egypt so that they could grow into a great number under the protection of the world's greatest nation at the time. But when the time came for the people to be released, that nation would not let go. Now this great number of people needs to get to the land that has been promised and they need laws to live by. These two chapters reveal the giving of that law. They must have laws that are very explicit. They have been in a culture that did not help them know God. They were moving into a country that was definitely not pursuing the one true God. God would set them apart to be a holy nation by giving them a list of laws by which they could govern themselves—revealing Himself and His heart in the process. Obedience would make them a holy people. Obedience that flows from the motive of love. I must remember that all the LORD has shown me has been shown so that I can be a holy person—set aside for Him and for His purpose!

*God, thank You for giving boundaries to Your people across the ages so that we can know what is required from our Holy God. Help me live as a holy person for You and let me bring that heart into my worship. Amen.*