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He worked the line at Saginaw Steering Gear, a foundry in Michigan. His job was to make the sand moldings used to produce parts for the automotive industry. He had to make sure the sand was the right consistency. He had to make sure that the form was perfect. Did he always get it right? Well, no. There were days when the humidity in the air messed him up. There were days when he didn't get enough sand in the right place to make an acceptable part. And then there were days when all sorts of things went wrong. Days when he was perfectly inconsistent.

What is comforting to me is the fact that our Lord is not like that foundry worker in Saginaw Michigan. Unlike any human being, our Lord has “**PERFECT CONSISTENCY.**” Come with me today and marvel at the Lord's perfect consistency in His promises, His attention and His family. Let's go to the book of Exodus, shall we?

Part One: The Lord's promises

We meet up with Moses after he had met with Pharaoh for the very first time. He came to Pharaoh with the Lord's message to let my people go. Pharaoh retaliated by forcing the Israelites to make bricks without straw. The Israelites then grumbled against Moses, blaming him for their problems. And Moses complained to God, wondering why He didn't free His people immediately. I suppose Moses was hoping that God would have acted right away, and saved Moses a lot of trouble in his life.

In response, the Lord reminds Moses of who He is. ***“I am the LORD.”*** He is the One who created this universe. He is the One who works all things out according to His will. He is the unchanging God, whose promises never change. He reminded Moses of the promises He had made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Those hadn't changed. He tells Moses to give these promises to the Israelites. ***“I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. ⁷I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. ⁸And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.”*** Our Lord is perfectly consistent when it comes to His promises.

Now, most of those promises weren't fulfilled right away. I think Moses was kinda hoping they would. God's timetable was a bit different. He didn't give the Israelites their freedom until He had shown them and the world His power. We recall the 10 plagues and the parting of the Red Sea. He didn't give them the land of Canaan for 40 years. But there was one promise that occurred right away. ***“I will take you as my own people.”*** That promise was fulfilled right then and there. But please note this wonderful fact. The Lord was perfectly consistent with His promises. He always follows through.

Hold on to that truth. In our lives today, there are so many broken promises. Our friends may say to us “I'll always be here for you” and then disappear just when you need their help and support. Our bosses may say “You'll always have a job here” and then they have to lay us off. Your girlfriend may say “I'll always love you” and then breaks up with you a month later.

Friends and bosses may break their promises, but the Lord never has and never will. He has promised that your sins are forgiven because of what Christ did. That will never change. He has promised that He will never leave you nor forsake you. That will never change. He has promised to grow your faith in Him through His Word. That will never change. He has promised that eternal life is yours because of your faith in Christ. That will never change. Our Lord is perfectly consistent when it comes to His promises.

Oh, some of those promises take time to fulfill. Not the forgiveness promise or the presence promise. That one is immediately fulfilled all the time. But a stronger faith? The promise of paradise? That takes time, God's time to bring to completion. The truth is - the Lord always delivers on His promises. He is perfectly consistent in His promises. And He is perfectly consistent in His attention to us. He is always watching over us and paying attention to the things that go on in our lives.

Part Two: The Lord's attention

The Lord told Moses He had heard the ***“groaning of the Israelites”***. He didn't just start hearing their groaning. He had always heard them. But the Israelites didn't know that until the Lord told them. The Lord had Moses relay this message to them to give them hope, to give them comfort in their distress.

A big clue as to the Lord's attention and perfect consistency is found in the Lord's name. It literally means “I am.” He is the God who never changes. His justice, will, love and attention are always the same. He does not change His mind about anything. He does not waver in His attention to His people, either.

I wonder how those Israelites took this news. They had always dealt with people who changed. Their slave owners changed their demands. Why, even they themselves changed from year to year. And God never changes? That's almost unheard of in life.

We get it. There's a big difference between us and God. We change. The person we are today is not the person we were 10 years ago. The person we will be in 10 years is not the person we are today. We change physically. We gain weight. We lose weight. Our hair gets thinner and changes color. Our eyesight gets worse as we age. Our ideas change. Our opinions change. Our careers, our responsibilities in life change. We go from being children to parents to grandparents. Yes, we change.

The Lord does not. His attitude towards you is always the same. He loves you. His plan for you is always the same. He will bring you to heaven. His gift of forgiveness is always there. He will never take that away from you. He is perfectly consistent in all He does, especially when it comes to His attention to you.

What does that mean in your life? It means He knows what's going on with you. He knows all the hurts and challenges in your life. He knows your doubts, your questions, your needs and your hopes and dreams. He knows how we struggle to find our niche in this world, to find a purpose that gives us satisfaction and contentment. He knows how often we stumble and fall, giving in to sin.

Because He's paying attention to you, He also knows how to build you up in your faith and comfort you as you struggle against sin. It's through His Word that He makes us aware of His attention. Every time we hear or read the Word of God, He knows we're doing it. He knows what we're reading and sends the Holy Spirit to build us up, to comfort us in our distress, to give us peace knowing He is right there with us. Not a day, a minute, a second goes by that the Lord is not paying attention to us.

Why? Because we are His family.

Part Three: The Lord's family

“I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God.” The Lord chose the Israelites to be part of His family. Not because they would be well-behaved children, oh no. History shows us that they often rebelled against Him and tromped on His will. He chose them to be His family simply because He wanted to. He made them part of His family despite their sinfulness and stubbornness.

God has chosen you to be part of His family, too. He adopted you by baptism, creating a saving faith in your heart by the power of His Word. That baptism tells the world what He did. Your baptism tells the world what God has done. We are the children of God.

And remember the Lord's perfect consistency. He will not change His mind about you. He won't put you up for adoption. He won't disinherit you in His will. He will never turn His back on you and disown you. Oh, no. He is the same today, yesterday and forever. We might run away from Him. We might disown Him and change our minds about believing Jesus. We might change, but the Lord never will.

I invite you to come and rejoice in the Lord's perfect consistency with God's family. Come and worship Him in person with your brothers and sisters in Christ. God is always ready to hear us join our voices in praise together. Your family is here, ready to join you in praising God. If you haven't been here for a few months, come and remind yourself of what you've been missing. Don't worry. The Lord will always be here ready to hear our voices of thanks and praise. He's perfectly consistent that way!

AMEN