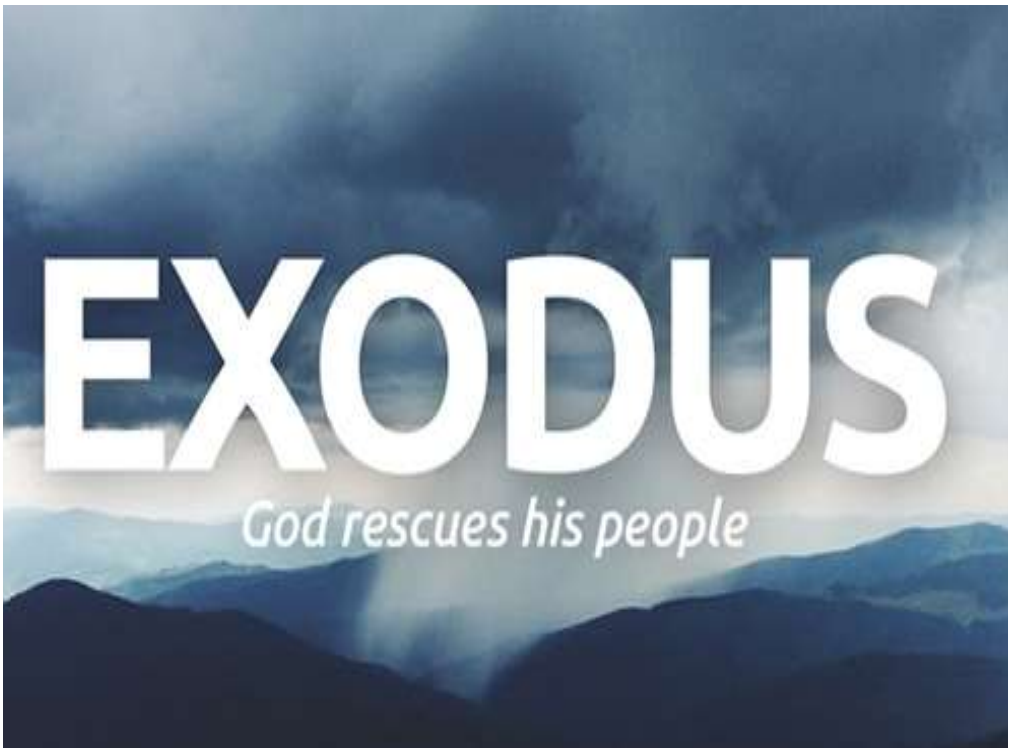


Let's Worship God

10th-15th February 2020
Exodus



EXODUS

Monday - Exodus 20:22-26 - Approaching God

In chapters 20:22-23:19 God is providing some of the practical applications that come from the 10 commandments; how his people are to approach him, how they are to love their neighbour, and the importance of the Sabbath day. We begin with approaching God. This is what the first 3 commandments teach.

The practical application for the people of Israel was that they were not to make idols, nor were they to make an altar of their own choosing. It had to be according to God's instructions.

Although today we do not have altars or sacrifices, because Jesus Christ was the once for all sacrifice for sin, the command to approach God in the way he instructs still stands. We can take the principles for altar making and apply them to our approaching God because the first 3 commandments of God are still in place.

The principles are these: we are not free to approach God in any way that we feel is suitable; we are not free to add to what he instructs us to do; we are not free to put our own personal preference into God's worship. The people of Israel were not allowed to use their tools to make the stones look nice just because they thought it would be a nice touch! There was also to be decency in worship. There were to be no steps up to the altar so no one might accidentally be exposed due to a lack of under garments! We must approach God as he has given us direction because he is still the holy God.

Ultimately we can only approach God through Jesus Christ. He is the only way permitted to come in worship. The one who became flesh for us, born as a baby, displaying no outward beauty to attract us to him, but was the perfect sacrifice. We can approach only by the way that God has permitted.

Questions

1. How would you answer the person who says we are free to worship God any way we would like?
2. In what way is Jesus like the earthen altar?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that through Jesus Christ we can come to God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.”Exodus 20:8-10a

Praise: Psalm 135 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Tuesday - Exodus 21:1-32 - Caring For Our Neighbour

Exodus is a book of the Covenant for God's people living in covenant relationship with the One who has set them free and living in Covenant relationship with one another. We are to love our neighbour. The 10 commandments begin. "I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." In light of who they were and what God has done for them God's people must treat one another with compassion and care. We have a responsibility for one another.

The verses on slaves might make us feel uncomfortable because of the wrongs of modern slavery, but for an Israelite living 3,000 years ago this is a passage full of grace and compassion. It is a passage about having responsibility for one another. An Israelite could sell himself into slavery, or service, for a time. This would allow them to be provided with meals, with income, and they could pay off debts while being looked after. God is giving compassionate and gracious laws to provide for the vulnerable in society, and they are not to be mistreated. There is a responsibility to care. Included in our responsibility to care for one other is honouring our fathers and mothers, and valuing life highly.

The Bible does not give us every possible application of the law but it does provide a set of cases to help us understand the basic principles of responsibility to care. Where this is abused or lacking we are told that punishments must fit the crime. Life is precious and so the punishment for taking life is severe.

And yet within the law we still see grace and mercy as God provides a place of refuge for his people. These laws, not only showing us how to apply the 10 commandments, continue to point us to Jesus Christ, who is the true servant, and our only refuge from the judgment we deserve.

Questions

1. What are some of the ways we can love our neighbour in light of these commands?
2. Why is human life so precious? In what ways can we respond to a nation that devalues this truth?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would show care for our neighbour.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.” Exodus 20:8-10a

Praise: Psalm 136 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Wednesday - Exodus 21:33-22:17 - Restitution

The law teaches us how we are to love our neighbour in the light of God's grace. There are 6 areas given in this passage where those who have been broken the law are to make restitution; where there has been irresponsibility in actions (v.33-36); where there has been theft (22:1-4); where there is negligence (v.5-6); where trust has been breached (7-13); where borrowed property is lost, broken or stolen (v.14-16); where there has been sexual immorality (v.16-17). In all of these case studies the one who has broken the law has to take responsibility for their actions. Restitution has to be made.

We live in a blame culture. People say "whatever you do don't take responsibility for your actions!" From politicians to the playground, from palaces to prisons, from celebrity to the home, there is a reluctance to take responsibility for wrong actions. But God's Word and his Law is countercultural. We are told we are to take responsibility for our actions. Your sins are your sins. It doesn't matter if your circumstances weren't pleasant, or if you were tired, or if you were just not thinking - you are responsible for your actions. Therefore we are to make restitution for our failings. Where we are guilty we are to seek to make all things right, and we are to be generous in doing that. Justice demands that we make things right. As God's covenant people we should be ready to make restitution. Consider the example of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10).

But also we are to remember that the price to paid to God for our sin is far too great for us to pay. We can never make restitution by our own payment. Another payment had to be made. A wonderful, complete and full payment - Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. Why are these laws on restitution so different to our society's view of responsibility?
2. Read Psalm 49. How does Psalm explain the restitution made for us in the Gospel?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ has made payment for our sins.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.”Exodus 20:8-10a

Praise: Psalm 137 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Thursday - Exodus 22:18-23:9 - Set Apart

As the people of Israel were going to settle in the land of Canaan God makes it clear to them that they were to be set apart from the surrounding nations. How God's people treated one another and how they conducted themselves was to be as a holy nation and as a priesthood of believers. When we come to the practical application of the law we are not to copy every detail directly to our circumstances, but rather we are to see that the principle of being set apart is one that we are to take to heart. In Jesus Christ we have been chosen as a royal priesthood and a holy nation. We have been saved to holiness, and so now we are to live that out, including in the area of social justice.

The next set of practical applications deal with loving our neighbour through laws on social justice. We could group these in 4 categories:

Capital Crimes (verses 18-20): mixing what is unholy in society with our Christian lives is a very serious matter. For the people of Israel it carried the ultimate consequence.

Compassionate Commands (verses 21-24, and chapter 23:9): look out for the needy and show them love. Just as Israel were foreigners in Egypt so they should show the same care to outsiders.

Duties of Respect (verses 25-30): just as we are to show reverence to God, we are to respect both the high and low in society, having compassion on the poor and having respect for those in authority.

Calls to holiness (22:31-23:8): God wants his people to be different from the culture around them. We are to be holy in our conduct, not show partiality, love our enemies.

We of course do not keep the law perfectly. But thanks be to God that there is one who did, and one who also took the punishment that breaking the law deserved - Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. How would you answer the person who says "we don't have to obey God's commands because we are saved by grace"?
2. How do we fail in keeping the principles of these commands? How do they point us to Jesus Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would become increasingly obedient in keeping God's commands.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God." Exodus 20:8-10a

Praise: Psalm 138 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Friday - Exodus 23:10-19 - The Sabbath

God's ways makes a distinction between God's covenant people and the surrounding nations. Probably where this is seen most clearly is in the law concerning the Sabbath day. The command is clear, keep the Sabbath. Exodus 20:8 Here are 4 helps to keeping the Sabbath holy.

Trust. v10-11. The Sabbath law was also for the land. You were to farm it for 6 years, but on the seventh year you were to leave it fallow. The farmer and the community had to trust that God would provide.

Rest. v12. We are commanded to work, to be productive, and to be creative. 6 days you shall work. But on the seventh day you shall rest. Here is a day that is given for our good. A day that also points us to the eternal rest that we have in Jesus Christ.

Worship. v13-17. Israel had 3 special feasts (later it would be 7) given to concentrate their worship before God: The leaven represented the corrupting influence of sin. Our worship includes a looking back considering what God has done in removing our guilt and punishment. The feast of the harvest. When the grain was ready the first sheaf of wheat was waved before the LORD. The first fruits was a promise of more to come. It is a picture of joy and celebration before God. The feast of ingathering (tabernacles). It was a time of joy and celebration because now the work is done, and it is time for rest. The harvest is in.

Purity. v18-19. We are to bring what God requires of us. We are to give God the fat of our worship, that is the best of our worship. And we are not to bring into our worship those practices that are seen in the world (boiling the goat in its mother's milk was likely a pagan practice).

Keep the Sabbath day special. Keep your worship pure.

Questions

1. How do the 3 feasts point to the work of Jesus Christ?
2. Why is it important to keep the Sabbath?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the gift of the Sabbath day.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.”Exodus 20:8-10a

Praise: Psalm 139 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

EXODUS

Saturday - Exodus 23:20-24:18 - The Covenant

The practical applications of the law finishes with a confirming of the covenant. These people are God's Covenant people. For generations they have held onto the promise that God is bringing them to a land of their own. There is a confirmation of God's Covenant with his people. It is a solemn, visual, intimate occasion. And it is an occasion for us. It is this covenant which is the basis for our relationship with God. It is this covenant that is the basis for our position of being God's Covenant people through Jesus Christ.

In chapter 23:20-33 we have the promise that God will go before his people. The angel who goes before his people has authority, a voice we are to obey and carries the name of God. This is Jesus Christ who goes before us and with us.

The promises are full of words of victory. God will drive the nations out. We will see the wicked brought down low. We will stand in the land of Promise. God has promised victory.

We are to be on our guard against sin. There is a danger of the surrounding culture influencing God's people. They were to completely destroy all idols and high places. Be warned that tolerating the sin and false worldviews of the nations will lead us into sin. Do not accommodate the sin in your life, don't give it a home, don't feed it, don't tolerate it.

In chapter 24 the covenant is then confirmed by the shedding of blood. Moses takes the blood from the peace offering and throws it onto the altar, and onto the people. Breaking Covenant with God demands our life blood as payment. But look! God has provided the sacrifice. The blood of another is payment for breaking Covenant. Ephesians 2:13, "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

Questions

1. How does the Lord's Supper compare with the confirmation of the Covenant?
2. What is the relationship between God's grace to us and our promise to obey him?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God." Exodus 20:8-10a

Praise: Psalm 140 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

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