

A STIFF-NECKED PEOPLE AND A JEALOUS GOD

(Exodus 25-35:29)

We come back to the story of the Exodus, and God's people have received from Him this extraordinary gift... wisdom for life in community, the invitation to live wisely as a distinct community and a perpetual blessing

In **Exodus 25**, God carries it all a step further with some explicit instructions for a new way of life together, **an arrangement that accommodates His holiness and addresses the people's sin**

The Finest Resources

The Ark as a throne for God and a time capsule preserving their memory

The Table for the Bread of the Presence

The Lampstand with seven lamps

The Tabernacle, a tent designed for life together on the road

The Altar for burnt offerings

The Courtyard to surround the tabernacle

The oil for the lampstand

The priestly garments:

 An ephod placing the names of the tribes of Israel upon the priest's shoulders

 A breast piece placing precious stones representing the 12 tribes upon the priest's heart

 The robe with bells, a turban, a tunic and special undergarments so the high priest is clothed in purpose.

A process for consecrating the priests

The altar of incense

Then, God appointed and anointed two men for the role of making all of this a reality:
Bezalel and Oholiab

It didn't take long to mess it up.

As we continue our walk through Exodus in chapters 25-35, we see a pattern begin to develop. The people of God reject His laws, but God persists in His pursuit of a holy relationship.

Even after the people bow down to the image of a golden calf, God invited Moses to meet with Him and He promised His Presence would go with His people.

Moses caught a glimpse of God's glory and walked away with a radiant face and two new stone tablets for the people, his face glowing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The gift of the law doesn't make it all good. The people struggled to honor God's will, choosing instead to do life their own way.

Sound familiar?

Can you point to seasons in your life when you opted to do things your own way and ignored the wisdom of God?

Yet God persisted in His pursuit of His people.

How did God demonstrate His love for them?

How does He demonstrate His love for us?

Despite the relational downturn, God stays true to His plan to love this stiff-necked people, making it clear He is a jealous God.

What do you think that means?

How has God proven Himself to be a jealous God after your heart?

Paul grabs ahold of this reality in Exodus 33-35 and talks about the glory of our new covenant with God in 2 Corinthians 3:7-18. Read it together and marvel at God's great plan for us all.

How can we live like a people with unveiled faces, contemplating the Lord's glory and being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory?

Pray for that. Dream for that. Commit to one another for that.