

# Sermon Notes

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

## Exodus 35:4-9, 20-22, 36:2-3, 37:1-9, 40:17-38

### What, again?

- Today's passage is very similar to one we've looked at before:
  - Ex 25-31 God gives instructions how to build the Tabernacle
  - Ex 35-40 They build it (with almost exactly the same description)
  - Why the repetition?
- Repetitions in the Bible aren't accidental. They emphasise something.
  - Remember the Chiasm structure from Mark?
  - Like a sandwich. Two repeated bits with another piece in between
  - Emphasises that the two parts are related to each other
- What's the sandwich here?
  - Ex 25-31 Instructions for the Tabernacle
  - Ex 32 They fail over the golden calf
  - Ex 33-34 Moses pleads for the people and God declares his character
  - Ex 35-40 They build the Tabernacle according to the instructions
- Here the relation is about intimacy with God:
  - The Tabernacle was to make it possible for God to live among them
  - When they make the golden calf, the relationship is broken
  - God threatens not to go with them any more (33:1-3)
  - God is revealed as both holy and merciful (34:5-7)
  - Will the relationship be restored?

### The restoration

- Have the people really repented, or do they just want to get out of trouble?
- Once they had given their gold to build an idol (32:3-6)
- Now they give gold to Bezalel to build the Tabernacle (35:21-24, 36:2-3)
- Looks like they really had repented (turned around)
- They weren't perfect – they would still get it wrong later
- Their reward was blessing and God's presence (40:34-38)
- Is blessing automatic?
  - Psalm 1: The obedient life does usually bring blessing
  - Psalms of lament (eg Psalm 22) – not an automatic guarantee
  - Its not a trade deal – we might obey just to get the blessing and avoid the punishment
  - God wants a relationship. Heart and mind that long for him.
- Palm 42 As the deer pants for the water so my soul longs for you
- Psalm 122 I was glad when they said to me, let's go to the house of the Lord

### What have we learned in Exodus?

- God remembers his promises and is faithful
- Even at the lowest ebb, he is working, preparing people
- When the time comes, he acts
- He rescues (saves) his people – the plagues and Passover
- He preserves them through danger – the Red Sea
- He keeps them in difficult times – food and water in the desert
- He wants to make them his people – to have a relationship with them
- He gives them his laws (10 commandments) – but that is not what makes them his people – his rescue comes first
- It's sin that makes a barrier between the people and God
  - He gives them sacrifices to deal with sin
  - They point forward to Jesus
- He gives them a Tabernacle to live among them
- Even when they mess up, there's still hope for reconciliation

In Exodus God reveals his name, and his character. Have we come to know him as the Lord, the compassionate and Gracious God?

Sin does make a barrier between us and God. We've seen how God works to overcome sin, but are there things we need to repent of?

In so many areas we've seen Jesus as the one who fulfils (completes) what Exodus starts. He is the one it all leads to.

Do we long for a relationship with God that goes beyond just what he can do for us?

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? (Psalm 42)

### Space for your notes

*Written by Ian McLenaghan, February 2020*