

June 4th, 2023
Differently
Exodus 19

Open with prayer

Read for insight into the scripture

Some of us want to blend in and some of us want to stand out, but the truth is, all of us want to make a difference. No one wants to live a life of “meh”. No one, when life is over and they cross into eternity longs to say, “I am glad my life was completely non-effective in any way.” We hope that what we do makes a difference...and if this is true, we have to ask the question, “What is the difference we are making?”

Are we making a difference in a way that impacts the Kingdom of Heaven and is drawing people into the current of grace, love, purpose, and future...or are we just living to make a difference in order to make a name for ourselves?

From the beginning of time, God has desired partnership with Him for the transformation of the world; to bring the "Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven.”

In the Hebrew Scriptures the word “Abad” is the word which God uses when he tells Adam and Eve what their priestly role and responsibility is. God uses it again with Moses, and then again throughout the old testament when calling the priests and the other Hebrew people to action with God.

Abad not only means to work and Serve God, but to serve God by labor. This is a call of working to help transform the world around us into the likeness of the already but not yet Kingdom of God by SERVING the Lord with and by our actions.

ReadTogether ***Exodus 19:1-6***

- **What stands out to you?**
- **Pay close attention to vs. 5-6. What does it say. If you _____ . Then _____ ?**

You may think, this is the old testament, we are not under the same law and statutes anymore.

In that case, if you have read Matthew 5:17-20. (Which you can now if you want, you will see that in this story of Jesus life we hear him say, “I have not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill them.” Jesus is saying, I am now THE WAY for you to experience right standing with God. WALK IN MY WAY. Then we have 1st Peter chapter 2 which echoes deeply the call of Hebrew people in Exodus 19. Here, however, we see Peter call the people of the church to action. This chapter paints a pretty explicit picture of what it looks like to be set apart.

ReadTogether

Read 1 Peter 2:1 – 12

- **What in this passage did you read that is familiar from Exodus 19?**
- **What are examples of ways that we are to be set apart from culture according to this chapter?** (What do we need to put away; and what do we need to long for, what are we do become like?)
- **Vs 9-10 is this beautiful picture of God opening the door for more than the Hebrew people to enter into the priesthood; the people who are not only set apart for Christ, but who help tend to the world on behalf of God. What does this mean to you?**
- **Vs 11 and 12 have a cause and effect for us as whole humans (Body and Soul) and also as our witness to those who don't know God. Discuss these verses.**

This is a question that most people don't want to answer out loud, but for the sake of vulnerability and growth, lets do this...

- **In what ways do you feel like you are struggling to be set apart from the world around you?**
- **In what ways do you feel the tension of being set apart and living into the priesthood?**
- **What rhythms might you incorporate into your day/week/life that will help you form more into a living reflection of Christ?**

Pray together

Pray for boldness and tender hearts to hear the invitation to make changes that allow you to walk more closely with the Lord. Pray for strength and courage have a like spirit of Jesus as He is described in Isaiah 11:1-2

“The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him (Jesus), the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”

Practice:

Read 1 Peter chapter 1 this week. Consider what this means as people who are striving to live in accordance to Gods calling. Take note how it calls us to action and sharpening and ends with the note, “this word is the GOOD NEWS that was preached to you.” Be encouraged as we journey after Jesus and may our lives reflect his.

Anyone have any thoughts or questions?

Prayer Request and closing Prayer

Ask if anyone has any prayers they would like to add to our prayer team, report back to Sarah. sarah@thechapelatseaside.com