

July 23rd, 2023
Changed
Exodus 34

Open with prayer

Read for insight into the scripture

This week, Andrew took us on a journey of the Tabernacle. Tabernacle means “to dwell”. The Tabernacle was designed by God to be the center of the Hebrew peoples existence. It was created as a place where God would make his presence known and it would be the place of encounter. The Tabernacle was at the center of the camp and was supposed to be a place of rest and renewal, of restoration and redemption. The Hebrew people were set up to be reminded DAILY that the Lord was among them and because of His good works, power, faithfulness, and leading, they were free and had access to a life abundant.

When people went to meet in the Tabernacle they were changed. Someone met with the Lord and they walked away different.

Have you had an encounter with the awe inspiring Lord that became a “before and after moment”?

We are going to look at a set of scriptures. If I were in charge, I would doll out these verses and have each person be ready to read one for the group when it is time.

Exodus 25:8-9

Exodus 40:34-38

Leviticus 9:22-24

2 Chronicles 7:1-3

John 1:14-17

Matthew 27:51

1 Corinthians 3:16

2 Corinthians 3:16

Read the text out loud and discuss questions.

Exodus 25:8-9

- ***What is the sanctuary for and who is making it?***
- ***Why do you think God sees importance in having the people make an investment in the dwelling place of God?***

Exodus 40:34-38

- ***How did the people know when to move and when to stay?***

Leviticus 9:22-24

- *What is the people's response when they see the power of God in their presence.*

2 Chronicles 7:1-3

- *At the opening of the permanent Tabernacle, called the Temple, notice what happens. How is God displayed and what are the peoples response?*
- *How is this similar to the opening of the Tabernacle?*

John 1:14-17

In the same way the word "tabernacle" means "dwell," the word "dwelt" in this verse means "tabernacled".

- *What is the word you see repeated 3 times in this passage? (What is Jesus full of, what have we received, and what has come through Jesus?)*
- *What does it mean to you that when Jesus dwells/tabernacles among us he comes with grace and truth?*

Read Matthew 27:51

- *What happened to the veil in the Temple when Jesus died?*

1 Corinthians 3:16

- *What does this say about our identity?*
- *If God put an emphasis in the Hebrew people having an investment in the Tabernacle and Temple, and we are now the Temple of God, what does that mean for us?*

2 Corinthians 3:16-18

- **What similarities do you see with the Matthew and Leviticus passage?**

The Lord has made himself to dwell in the temple, and then Jesus was the definition of dwelling with us, and then God caused the Holy Spirit to cause US to be the Temple, God dwelling among us...for the Glory of of the Lord. And what does the scripture say...Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is_____?

When one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed, there is freedom from sin and also transformation. This is the actual recipe for a changed life.

The Lord mandated the Hebrew people to make the Temple in the center of their dwelling. Their whole lives were to be positioned around the presence of the Lord?

- **What would you say is the thing that your life seems to be centered around.**
- **How can you partner with the work of the Holy Spirit to allow transformation in your life daily?**
- **What does it mean to you to behold the glory of the Lord?**

- **Do you feel like in your interactions with others, you are demonstrating a God worth worshiping?**

Practice:

This week reflect both personally and as a community, if we are the body of Christ, if we are the new Temple, what should it look like when people encounter us? Do people experience rest and renewal, restoration and redemption? If people described experiencing you or experiencing The Church or the body of Christ, what would they say? How can we live in such a way that those are our descriptors? Jesus was the embodiment of those characteristics and our call is to be more like Him. Just like the Hebrew people had investment in building and caring for the Tabernacle and Temple, identify ways that you can invest in yourself, your community, and those you interact with to be more like Jesus. The only way to be more like Jesus is to practice the ways of Jesus.

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

Quotes from Sermon:

***“When good things, become god things, we’ve bowed down to the wrong thing. “
- Andrew Beard***

“We think that idols are bad things, but that is almost never the case. The greater the good, the more likely we are to expect that it can satisfy our deepest needs and hopes. Anything can serve as a counterfeit god, especially the very best things in life.” - Tim Keller, Counterfeit Gods

“If that’s how people reacted whenever they found the temple of God, if they fell on their faces and shouted with joy and said, ‘The Lord is good; his love endures forever,’ then what in the world should people do when they meet you, the new temple of God!?” - Ray Vander Laan