

# Read Through The Bible

Week 8 –March 24-30, 2024

Exodus 25-38, Mark 4:30-9:1, Palms 23-25, Proverbs 5:15—6:11

## Icebreaker

What is the most magnificent/impressive building you have ever been in?

Have you ever been called into the principal's office? What was it like?

What is the greatest example of faith you have ever witnessed?

What is the most astonishing thing you have ever witnessed during/from a storm?

## Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What struggles did you face?

What can you share from your personal Bible reading this week?

Where did you see God in your daily life?

## Step 2: GET FED

### Exodus

**Exodus 25:1-9 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> *The LORD said to Moses,* <sup>2</sup> *“Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me...”* <sup>8</sup> *And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.* <sup>9</sup> *Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.*

From whom were they to receive a contribution? What was to happen with the contribution? What would be the result? Given the grumbling the people had exhibited over several occasions, how do you think they responded? How do you think you would have reacted?

How important was it that God dwell in their midst? Does God dwell in our midst today?

How important was it they make the tabernacle exactly as God showed them? Is it important for us today to do things exactly as God directs? Do we tend to do things this way or the way we think they should be done?

Where do we find the directions for our life? How long has it been since we looked for/at those directions?

**Exodus 25:22 (ESV)** <sup>22</sup> *There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.*

What do you think it would be like to meet with God in front of the ark? How do you think you would feel?

**Exodus 28:3 (ESV)** <sup>3</sup> *You shall speak to all the skillful, whom I have filled with a spirit of skill, that they make Aaron's garments to consecrate him for my priesthood.*

Does God instill us with skill today? What is your skill? How have you used it for God?

**Exodus 29:42-46 (ESV)** <sup>42</sup> *It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there.* <sup>43</sup> *There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory.* <sup>44</sup> *I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests.* <sup>45</sup> *I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God.* <sup>46</sup> *And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.*

What would happen at the entrance of the tent of meeting? Why must everything that is before the LORD be consecrated? Where would God dwell? What would the people know? We have seen this phrase repeated numerous times and will see it many times more. Why would this be so important to everyone, Israelites and foreigners alike? How well do we understand this today?

**Exodus 30:11-16 (ESV)** <sup>11</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>12</sup> “When you take the census of the people of Israel, then each shall give a ransom for his life to the LORD when you number them, **that there be no plague among them** when you number them... <sup>14</sup> **Everyone who is numbered** in the census, from twenty years old and upward, shall give the LORD’s offering. <sup>15</sup> **The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less, than the half shekel, when you give the LORD’s offering to make atonement for your lives.** <sup>16</sup> You shall take the atonement money from the people of Israel and shall give it for the service of the tent of meeting, that it may bring the people of Israel to remembrance before the LORD, **so as to make atonement for your lives.**”

What were the two purposes of the census tax? Why would each one give the same regardless of rich or poor? Would you like this system today?

**Exodus 32:7-10 (ESV)** <sup>7</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, **have corrupted themselves.** <sup>8</sup> They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. **They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’”** <sup>9</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, **“I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people.** <sup>10</sup> Now therefore let me alone, **that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.”** How long did it take for the people to turn to other gods? How did God feel about this? How long does it take us to turn to other gods? What are some gods we turn to? Does God feel the same way today? How can we keep from turning to other gods?

**Exodus 32:3-5 (ESV)** <sup>3</sup> So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> And he[Aaron] **received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf.** And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” <sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, **he built an altar before it.**

**Exodus 32:24 (ESV)** <sup>24</sup> So I said to them, ‘Let any who have gold take it off.’ So they gave it to me, and **I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf.**”

What kind of silly excuses do we give for our actions?

**Exodus 32:26 (ESV)** <sup>26</sup> then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, **“Who is on the LORD’s side? Come to me.”** And all the sons of Levi gathered around him.

How would you answer this question? How have you answered this question?

**Exodus 33:1-3 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses, **“Depart; go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘To your offspring I will give it.’”** <sup>2</sup> **I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.** <sup>3</sup> **Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.”** Where were they to go? What would God still do for His people? Why would God not go among them? Are we stiff-necked today? Is God still meeting His promises to us? Why?

**Exodus 33:11 (ESV)** <sup>11</sup> Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

How marvelous would it be to speak to God as a friend? Of what other person is this said?

**Exodus 33:14-16 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup> And he said, **“My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”** <sup>15</sup> And he said to him, **“If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.** <sup>16</sup> For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? **Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?”**

What condition did Moses have for leaving that place? What made the Israelites distinct from all other people on earth? Do Christians still hold this distinction?

*Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV)* <sup>6</sup> *The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”*

Who gave this description of God? What should this description of God mean for us?

*Exodus 35:29 (ESV)* <sup>29</sup> *All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the LORD had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the LORD.*

*Exodus 36:3-5 (ESV)* <sup>3</sup> *And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, <sup>4</sup> so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, <sup>5</sup> and said to Moses, “The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do.”*

What offering do we bring? Is it a freewill offering or seen as a duty? Is there a difference? Have we brought more than necessary to do the work?

## Mark

**Mark 4:30-33** The parable of the mustard seed. A tiny seed that grows into a huge plant. It is a metaphor for the kingdom. It is often also applied to faith. How is your faith growing?

**Mark 5** The man with the demons, the woman with an issue of blood, and Jairus. All of these recognized the power of God embodied in Christ. Do we recognize this power? How do we react to it? Jesus told the woman her faith had made her well and Jairus “Do not fear, only believe.” What role has faith played in your life?

*Mark 6:5-6 (ESV)* <sup>5</sup> *And he could do no mighty work there [Nazareth, Jesus’ hometown], except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. <sup>6</sup> And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.*

Part of their problem was that Jesus grew up among them. They believed He was human, not recognizing His divinity. Can you recognize Jesus’ divinity? What problems do you have believing? If it was up to you, what works could Jesus do here?

**Mark 6:30-52** Jesus feeds 5,000 and walks on water. What power of Jesus do both of these miracles show? The apostles were utterly astonished when the storm was calmed because they did not understand about the loaves and their hearts were hardened. What is the status of our heart? Do we believe the miracles presented actually happened or do we look for a natural explanation? Have we bought the lie scientists often propose that there is only natural explanations, no supernatural power exists?

*Mark 7:20-23 (ESV)* <sup>20</sup> *And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. <sup>21</sup> For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup> coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”*

What is in your heart?

*Mark 8:11-12 (ESV)* <sup>11</sup> *The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. <sup>12</sup> And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.”*

Many atheists see a sign today. They say they would believe if they saw a sign. Or they say extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. Do you need a sign or can you believe these that have been related? Do you want to believe or are you still seeking a sign?

**Mark 8:34-38 (ESV)** <sup>34</sup> And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. <sup>36</sup> For **what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?** <sup>37</sup> For what can a man give in return for his soul? <sup>38</sup> For **whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed** when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

What are we trying to gain, profit or our soul? Are we ashamed of God? Do we tell others about Him? What will *the Son of Man* think of us when He comes again?

### **Psalms**

**Psalm 23** What has God done for you? What do you fear? David says he doesn’t even fear death. Why? Where are you in your fear journey?

**Psalm 24:3-4 (ESV)** <sup>3</sup> Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup> **He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.** How clean are your hands? How pure is your heart?

**Psalm 25:4-5 (ESV)** <sup>4</sup> **Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.** <sup>5</sup> **Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.**

How are you doing in knowing God’s ways? Are we letting God teach us? DO we know His ways, paths, and truth?

### **Proverbs**

**Proverbs 5:21 (ESV)** <sup>21</sup> **For a man’s ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths.** How should this truth affect us?

**Proverbs 6:6-11 (ESV)** <sup>6</sup> **Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise...** <sup>0</sup> *A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,* <sup>11</sup> **and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.**

### **Step 3: GET ACTIVE**

Meditate on what it means that God is God. Write a short paragraph on what makes God a big “G” God versus a little “g” god.

Mark relates stories about the faith of people, Jews and Gentiles alike. Write one thing you are absolutely sure about God. Write one doubt you have about God. How can the first relieve the second?

“Consider her ways [the ant] and be wise.” Write how you are like an ant.