

Read Through The Bible

Week 7 –March 17-23, 2024

Exodus 11-24, Matthew 27:11-28:20, Mark 1:1-4:29, Palms 21-22, Proverbs 4:20-5:14

Icebreaker

What instance of discipline/punishment do you remember growing up?

What is a really big lesson you have learned? What cemented that lesson in your mind?

Who has large crowds that follow them today?

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

Scripture

Exodus

Exodus 12:12 (ESV) ¹² *For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.*

“*On all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments. I am the LORD.*” Each of the plagues on Egypt were against a god of the Egyptians. They show the supremacy of the true God over the Egyptian gods. How important is it for us to realize that God is over everyone and everything? What does it mean that He is LORD? Is He our LORD? If He is our Lord, how is this displayed in our life? What actions in our life show that God is our LORD?

Exodus 12:14-17 (ESV) ¹⁴ *“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast...¹⁷ And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.*

What were they to celebrate with this feast? Why would God command them to celebrate this feast forever? What permanent celebration do we have today? How does it relate to this feast and celebration? From what have we been brought out?

Exodus 13:11-13 (ESV) ¹¹ *“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.*

What does it mean to consecrate something to God? How should this relate to us today?

Exodus 13:21-22 (ESV) ²¹ *And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. ²²The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.*

God did not desert His people once He rescued them from Egypt. He led them day and night. Is God also with us today? What sign(s) do we have of His constant presence?

Exodus 15:1-2 (ESV) ¹ *Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, “I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. ²The LORD is*

my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Ex 14-15 These chapters recite the story of the Egyptians following the Israelites and God miraculously allowing the Israelites to cross the Red Sea on dry land and drowning the Egyptians. Chapter 15 recounts the songs of praise by Moses and Miriam. How often do we praise God for our salvation? What is the most impressive line of praise in Moses' song Exodus 15:1-18?

Exodus 16:2-3 (ESV) ² And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³ and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

After the Israelite's grumbling God provided quail and manna. The manna sustained the Israelites for 40 years in the wilderness. How often do we grumble against God? What has God provided to sustain you?

Exodus 19:3-6 (ESV) ³ while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

This stipulation will be made again and again to the people of Israel. What would this mean to the Israelites? Is this still true today? (cf 1 Peter 2:9) What should it mean to us?

Ex 20:1-17 The ten commandments. The basis of all our interactions with God and man. Are these still applicable today? If everyone observed them, what would society be like? How would it be different? What other commands are needed beside these? How well are you doing keeping them? Which is most difficult for you?

Exodus 24:3 (ESV) ³ Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do."

Have we made this promise? Are we keeping the promise?

Matthew

Matthew 27:24-25 (ESV) ²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." ²⁵ And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

Is Christ's blood on us today? How thankful should we be for that fact? How should we respond?

Matthew 27:54 (ESV) ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

How desperately do we need to realize this fact today?

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV) ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Is this charge applicable to us today? How are we doing observing Christ's commands? How motivating is it for us that Christ is with us always?

Mark

Mark 1:14-15 (ESV) ¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Jesus' primary message was repent and believe in the gospel, the good news. Have you repented and believed?

Mark 1:16-20 (ESV) ¹⁶ *Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw **Simon and Andrew** the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "**Follow me**, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸ And **immediately they left their nets and followed him**. ¹⁹ And going on a little farther, he saw **James the son of Zebedee and John** his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ And immediately **he called them**, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.*

How long did it take Simon, Andrew, James, and John to decide to follow? Have we obeyed Jesus' invitation? Are we becoming fishers of men?

Mark 1:27-28 (ESV) ²⁷ *And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸ And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.*

Are we amazed like these? Are we aware of Jesus' authority like these? Or are we more apathetic or familiar, having lost our awe?

Mark 2:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ *And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.**"*

The Pharisees wondered why Jesus ate with sinners. Jesus explained His mission. Which camp do we fit in, the righteous or sinners? What should be our response to Jesus regardless of our camp?

Mark 3:33-35 (ESV) ³³ *And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" ³⁴ And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ For **whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.**"*

What is the identifying mark of Jesus' family? Are you part of Jesus' family?

Mark 4:1-20 relates the Parable of the Sower. Which soil are you? What is your level of fruit bearing?

Psalms

Psalms 21:1-7 List the ways the king has been blessed by God. How have you been blessed?

Psalms 22 seems to be tightly tied to the crucifixion of Christ. List the verses that seem to have a reference to the crucifixion.

Proverbs

Proverbs 4:23 (ESV) ²³ *Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*

What other verses are you reminded of that indicate the role of the heart in one's life? (cf Matt. 5:13)

Proverbs 5:3-4 (ESV) ³ *For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, ⁴ but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.*

Who do you know that speaks like this? How many followers do they have? What will be the end for them?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

Make a list of what it means for God to be lord of your life. See how many of these items are present in your life.

Make a list of at least 10 specific blessings in your life; more if you can think of them. Select 7 of those blessings and meditate on one for at least 10 minutes each day this week.

Meditate on the crucifixion of Christ and what that means for our life. Consider Christ's voluntary act, the physical agony, the separation of Christ and God and the Spirit, and the triumph over sin. What other aspects of the crucifixion stand out to you?