

Sermon Discussion 4-24-2016

Overview

As we've seen throughout Exodus, God's ultimate plan is for us to dwell with Him; it's the purpose and direction of history. Helpful to understand Exodus in three movements: Israel comes out of Egypt (deliverance), at Mt. Sinai (covenant), instructions for tabernacle (dwelling). Ch 24 is the end of the second movement and we see four major points of emphasis:

1. Oath
2. Sacrifice
3. Meal
4. Welcome

Being a Christian involves whole-hearted devotion, under His Grace, so that we enjoy His presence.

Quotations

"To share the fellowship at the table of someone's family would have been tantamount to being accepted into that fellowship... it was a clear way of displaying the mutual acceptance and agreement between the parties" (Ake Viberg, *Symbols of Law*," quoted in Davies, *A Royal Priesthood*)

Understanding & Application

1. Drew highlighted the similarities to God's covenant with Israel to marriage vows.
 - a. What qualities are common to both of these oaths?
 - b. In both of these relationships we're bound by oath and grace. What does it look like to be out of balance in either of those directions? Which aspect is God calling you to better embrace?
2. What were the two types of sacrifices and what was significant about each?
 - a. What is conveyed by a shared meal following one of the sacrifices?
 - i. What does this remind us about Eden?
3. How does your family prioritize meal times as opportunities for fellowship and encouragement?
 - a. The fellowship (with God and with each other) is enabled and sustained through forgiveness and grace. How did you learn to practice seeking and giving forgiveness such that you maintain long-term relationships?
 - b. How does 1 Peter 1:2 and Hebrews 9:22 remind us that forgiveness is costly?
 - i. Read Hebrews Ch 22 and count the number of times blood is mentioned.

4. Isaiah 25:6 describes the joyous feast we can anticipate where we get to fully enjoy the greatest gift of the covenant: God's presence.
 - a. How will our relationship with God be different than encounters that we see in scripture? What does it mean to "behold"?

 - b. How do you envision eternity? Are you motivated with affection towards God in anticipating joyous laughter and feasting?

5. A strong element within ZF history is striving for biblical "neighborliness", with an emphasis on shared meals in the home.
 - a. Consider Christ's reputation as one who "ate with sinners". As you look over the past 3-6 months, how intentional have you been about practicing hospitality for those who don't know Christ?
 - i. What are the barriers to doing this?

 - ii. Do you have enough non-Christian contact for this to even be feasible?

6. What disciplines have you developed that help you to "lean in" in anticipation of Sunday morning worship so that you are prepared to draw near and behold our God?