



We judge people
in areas where
we're vulnerable
to shame.

BRENE BROWN

Tuesday Devotion: Exodus Week 8 May 19, 2020

Exodus 23 & 24

Bible Reference: [Exodus 23 and 24](#)

I believe this week I might have more questions than answers. What does life look like now with businesses opening up again? What do we need to do as a family? As a church? Will it be safe? There are so many questions.

In our Bible study, God's people have been in the wilderness for some time now. I wonder how weary they were. I wonder how hard it was for them to care about one another. I wonder how much they were hurting each other. Our text for today, Exodus 23 and 24, is full of more laws and discussions about festivals. It is interesting that at this time in the wilderness they were given more rules. I am sure these rules & laws were necessary to help them continue to live together and love one another even though they were weary of the wilderness. At the same time God also tells them that His angel will guide them, and they should do everything the angel says.

Last week I was very wilderness weary. I was struggling even to eat. During a phone conversation with my brother-in-law he said, "Will, you sound drained." I responded, "Watching people shame each other is killing me." The people I love are tearing at each other; even pastors are doing it to one another. I cried out many times for the Holy Spirit to keep giving me guidance. I thought a lot about Moses. I asked a lot of questions about what he might have felt. I wondered how hard it was for him to watch the Israelites tear each other up. I'm sure he felt relief when God dropped a bunch of rules on the people. I bet he felt relief when all of the sudden there was an angel to follow too.

Recently I put a quote by Brene Brown on my Facebook page. Brown says, "Shame is the most powerful, master emotion. It's the fear that we're not good enough." Along with the quote I asked if anyone has felt shame in the wilderness, and if we create change by shaming others. After seeing my post, I had a pastor friend message me saying, "I am struggling with all the pastors shaming each other." I wasn't the only one.

The rules came out this week for how businesses should reopen, churches too. I stopped by Amighetti's to see my friend and he showed me an 18-page document of rules he was trying to figure out how to follow. He started our conversation with, "I don't know where your politics are at...." Why does he have to start that way with a friend?

This weekend I am going to do something I normally would never do—I am going to start a new series on a holiday weekend. Normally this would be a horrible time to start a series because so many people are traveling on Memorial Day weekend and thus away from church, but this year's circumstances are different. Last week the Holy Spirit gave me a picture of how weary we are right now. I felt it all the way through my body. I want to recharge us by tackling this issue of shame. The Biblical response to Brene Brown's quote is that yes, we aren't good enough, *but Christ is!* She has some great talking points on shame and how it is tearing us up as a culture. I have no clue how much longer we will be living with these new guidelines, but I want us to understand shame so we can love one another better. I read two books on shame this year and I am excited to share what I have learned, alongside of connecting it to Scripture and how to love on another.

Our Board of Directors gave approval for drive-thru communion to start back up this Sunday, May 24th beginning at 10am. If you are taking communion, I will actually see you on Sunday, otherwise you can see me on our Facebook Live service at 9am. I miss you all.

God's Peace,
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