



Tuesday Devotion: Exodus Week 9 May 26, 2020

Why Build A New Tabernacle In The Wilderness?

Bible Reference: [Exodus 24-27](#)

At the preschool closing parade, one of the teachers commented to me that I have been very transparent in this wilderness. I wrote her an email after I had a few days to process what she said and responded, "I watched my grandpas be pastors, and my home pastor, and they put their heart out there and into everything they did. I only know one way to pastor and that is to be transparent." Some of the authors I love are also transparent, reminding the readers that they got to choose what parts of their story to tell you about, and that they are choosing to share. I bet that if David had had a choice, he would have cut out the part about Bathsheba. I am sure Noah would have cut out that whole thing about being drunk and naked. I'm not sure Moses could have cut out the murder scene which led him to flee Egypt to begin with, but I bet he would have tried.

Over Memorial Day weekend my family headed to the lake while I stayed back so that we could start up communion again. I had my list of projects to get done while alone in the house, but instead of being productive, I was caught up in my head all weekend thinking about things over and over again. I had to purposely push myself to do the projects to try to get me to think about something else. Those closest to me, like Mindy, my brother and my mom, were asking why I was struggling, but I couldn't even put it into words. I reflected a lot on Moses. How did Moses make it through the wilderness? Surely there had to be moments for him like the ones I was having. What did he do to get through?

By the end of Exodus 24 in our text for today, a new altar was built and blood was being slung between it and God's people as a sign of the new covenant. New altar... sound familiar? (Hint...our new drive thru communion altar.) Communion has never felt like this for me. This past Sunday I was watching every detail so closely to make sure we were in step with the safety procedures we put in place. It was so technical. Also, in that chapter of Exodus, the glory of God came to Moses. What was that and why? Most theologians say that the glory of God is Jesus. So did Moses see Jesus? I'm not sure, but I imagine he needed Jesus right about then. All that time in the wilderness probably meant he was tired and maybe, just maybe, a little anxious. On

Sunday afternoon I hung out with a friend. He told me, "I just realized pastors are feeling it right now and I wanted to check on you." I can't tell you what it meant to me to hang out and talk with a friend who loves Jesus. It was like the glory of God coming down on me! With Jesus living in and through my friend, it was like me seeing Jesus, and it recharged me.

Chapters 25-27 of Exodus talk about rebuilding the tabernacle according to God's specifications. I remember my Dad taking me to a place where they had created a real model of the tabernacle. It was so elaborate and so cool. Why would they think this was a good time to build the tabernacle while in the wilderness, and with so many crazy details? Weren't they low on resources? But the text tells us that when Moses asked the people to give the materials they needed for the tabernacle, they got all they needed.

Last Friday I got the call that now was the time to do second half of the repairs to the church roof. The water was leaking so badly that a few of the tiles in the narthex were sagging from the weight of the water. We knew this enormous project was needed, but we were waiting to see what might come of the idea of a partner with the land/building. Why now, God? My friend that I hung out with last Sunday had also told me of a dream he had had recently. "Will, I had a dream of this beautiful new, white Mt. Calvary." That's awesome and it made me excited, but in the wilderness?

Taking advantage of the empty building, we have begun work to expand the cry room, and to replace the roof of the pavilion. We have a bid on awesome flooring that would go all the way into the sanctuary and fix all the carpet issues. And now we have to do the roof as well. Economists are cautioning us to be careful with our money, and rightfully so, but I am asking you to speak with Jesus about how you can help with these projects. I know many of you have strong commitments/tithes that you made this year, so like I always say, just pray and ask Jesus to move your heart to do what you can. For some of you that may mean just keeping the commitment you already made despite these crazy times. Some of you might feel moved to give more. Some of you may decide to give more now, rather than later. As always, this is a conversation between you and Jesus.

Catch the vision of the tabernacle as you read these Exodus chapters. Catch the vision of Mt. Calvary...Transformed People, Transformed Mt. Calvary. Imagine no more leaks, more cry room space, and potentially, a new floor that is easy to clean and looks beautiful. Maybe you'll come back to a church that looks different than the one you left.

God's Peace,
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