



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 6, Day 1 --- Exodus 19-21

Week 6, Day 2 --- Exodus 22-24

Week 6, Day 3 --- Exodus 25-27

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Week 6, Day 1 --- Exodus 19-21

Have you ever seen metal burn? All that you have to do is place metal in pure oxygen and it will burn up just like wood. That is what God's holiness is like. He is so pure that anything less than perfect that comes into His presence is consumed. This is why God goes to such great lengths to warn the Israelites when He prepares them to meet with Him.

In chapter 20 you will find the Ten Commandments. All the rest of the law that you will read in the following chapters is an expansion on these 10 laws. In the New Testament the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 is an expansion and explanation of these 10 laws. On first reading these you may think that God is being very restrictive. Some people think He is being mean and that all God ever says is no.

I think that what God is attempting to do is to describe Himself. He is trying to help us understand who He is and how to live in relationship with Him. He is telling us how to live a life filled with love, joy, and peace. In chapter 21 God begins providing Moses with the next level of detail in the law. As you read this you'll find the basis for most of our laws today. Our laws may read differently, but the principles behind them come from these laws first spoken by God to Moses.

Week 6, Day 2 --- Exodus 22-24

There is a very important principle in God's law that we seem to have lost. Whenever a crime is committed there is a victim. Our current justice system makes little or no provision for the victim. When we speak of the debt being repaid to society we are simply speaking about the time served in jail. There were no jails in Sinai desert. The person who harmed someone else was not locked away. Instead, they were required to go to work to compensate, make restitution, to the person that was harmed. What do you think about the principle of restitution?

There is another principle that we do not understand well or practice. This is the principle of celebration. We like to party, but we party without purpose. God's parties were great parties. They generally lasted a week and God absolutely intended for people to have a good time. He also intended for people to remember who made the party possible and to honor Him with their celebration.

In the middle of the presentation of the law God reminds the people of where they are going. He lets them know why it is going to take time to possess the Promised Land. God also predicts what is going to happen if the people do not complete the job of capturing the land.

Finally, God makes a covenant with the people. A covenant is a set of promises that two parties make to each other. It is different from a contract. A contract focuses on protecting each of the parties from harm by the other. A covenant focuses on building a relationship based on mutual benefit. In this case, God's desire is to bless the people. They can participate in His blessing by agreeing to be His people.

Week 6, Day 3 --- Exodus 25-27



This is a picture of a model of the tabernacle.

(Image from <http://koti.phnet.fi/petripaavola/Tabernacle>)

It is roughly to scale, so you can get an idea of what it looked like. The tabernacle was designed to be portable, because the people would be on the move for the next 40 years in the desert.

I can't wait to get to heaven and find out what all of the parts of the tabernacle represent. The book of Hebrews in the New Testament makes it clear that the tabernacle is an image of the reality of heaven. We are provided with some clues in the New Testament, but everything is not

explained. For example, we know that the Most Holy Place represents the dwelling place of God and this is the New Jerusalem in the book of Revelation.

I don't know what translation of the Bible you are using, but if you are using one that describes the dimensions of the tabernacle in cubits you need to know that a cubit is approximately 18 inches. It varied over time because it was the distance from the King's elbow to his finger tips.

Why do you think God was so specific in His instructions to Moses about the way the tabernacle was to be built?

Week 6, Day 4 --- Exodus 28-29

How long do you think it would take you to learn this process so that you could do it from memory? I've read it many times and the only way I could do it would be to have the instructions right in front of me. Even then I'm certain I wouldn't get it perfectly right. Preparing to be the connection between God and the people was a very complicated thing. Coming into God's presence required a great deal of preparation.

As you read through today's chapters think about how privileged we are to be able to come into God's presence with none of this preparation. Instead, all that is required is that we be in Christ. If we are in Christ, then we can come into God's presence at anytime and we have His presence with us in the Holy Spirit at all times.

Week 6, Day 5 --- Exodus 30-32

Today's reading begins with pleasant things and ends with disaster. God is in the process of giving Moses the Ten Commandments. As God describes the building of the tabernacle He continues to emphasize

the Sabbath. It is very difficult to rest. I believe that even though we live under a new covenant that the principle of the Sabbath remains. It is one of God's principles that I have the greatest difficulty with. Resting on the 7th day requires that I trust God to help me get accomplished what I need to accomplish on the other 6 days. What are you doing to make one day of the week a special day of rest?

The tabernacle was a super-natural structure. The people who came out of Egypt did not have the skills required to build such a work of art. The Holy Spirit comes upon some of the people and fills them with the skills needed to create what God had designed. God is still doing this today, giving people abilities and skills far beyond natural talent to accomplish great things for Him.

40 days is a long time. It was an especially long time for the Israelites to wait for Moses to come down from the mountain. All the signs of God's presence remained, but the people became anxious and wanted to move. What always amazes me about this chapter is that God allows Aaron to remain as the high priest after this. He was not a leader, but a follower. When Moses was present he followed Moses, but when Moses was away he followed the people. Still, God forgave him and allowed him to continue to lead and serve. God is far more patient and forgiving than we can imagine.

Week 6, Day 6 --- Exodus 33-35

Moses quickly recognizes something that the people did not. He understands that without God's presence they will not survive their journey to the Promised Land. Moses is a true leader. He understands what is needed and pursues it for himself and by doing that provides an example to the people. He desires to really know God. He knows he is an imperfect man, but he understands enough of who God is to desire a personal relationship with Him.

Notice where the tent of meeting is at this time. This is important because the location is going to change in the future and the change is both real and symbolic. At this time it is outside the camp. The only people who truly have an experience of God's presence are Moses and Joshua. What would it be like to be Joshua? What do you think Joshua is being prepared for? What do you think he is doing in the tent?

When the Israelites left Egypt they plundered the Egyptians and gathered up a large number of valuables. God provided all of this material for the Israelites. Now He is giving them the opportunity to give some of it back to build His temporary home.

Week 6, Day 7 --- Exodus 36-38

God knew something that the Israelites didn't know. He knew that this temporary place of worship would have to last for several hundred years. The people probably thought that it was silly to make all this investment in something they would replace in a year or two. They didn't realize that they would be wandering in the desert for 40 years and that it would then take several centuries before they had a leader strong enough and wealthy enough to build a temple.

This is one of the high points for the Israelites and I think that this is why it is recorded in such detail. The people had rebelled against God by making and worshiping the golden calf. Now they have repented and their repentance is genuine. They recognize that everything belongs to God and the offering that they bring is so generous that Moses has to tell them to stop. It is a rare thing, but they obey God to the smallest detail and that is what Moses records for us here.

