

"Exodus: Journey of Fulfillment"

Week 3

Sermon Date 10/1/2017

MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) From last week's study, what impacted you regarding your identity?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

The Goal

This week we will be looking at Exodus Chapter 32. This is during the time when Moses goes up the mountain the first time to receive the Ten Commandments, and the Israelites make a golden calf to worship. God is testing Moses and his affection for the people of Israel. This story is not about God changing His mind; it is about Moses standing in the gap for the Israelites. Standing in the gap for someone is the idea of going before God on behalf of someone else. It also includes the sacrifices we make for the betterment of someone else. This week's challenge and question is: who are we standing in the gap for?

DIGGING DEEPER

This week we will be unpacking Exodus 32:9-16. Our focus is on Moses and his response to God. Read this passage with that in mind and discuss the following questions.

Exodus 32:9-16

⁹Then the Lord said, "I have seen how stubborn and rebellious these people are. ¹⁰Now leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, and I will destroy them. Then I will make you, Moses, into a great nation."

¹¹But Moses tried to pacify the Lord his God. "O Lord!" he said. "Why are you so angry with your own people whom you brought from the land of Egypt with such great power and such a strong hand? ¹²Why let the Egyptians say, 'Their God rescued them with the evil

intention of slaughtering them in the mountains and wiping them from the face of the earth'? Turn away from your fierce anger. Change your mind about this terrible disaster you have threatened against your people! ¹³ Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You bound yourself with an oath to them, saying, 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven. And I will give them all of this land that I have promised to your descendants, and they will possess it forever.' "

¹⁴ So the Lord changed his mind about the terrible disaster he had threatened to bring on his people.

¹⁵ Then Moses turned and went down the mountain. He held in his hands the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back.

¹⁶ These tablets were God's work; the words on them were written by God himself.ⁱ

- 4) From verses nine and ten, what does God want to do to the people, and why does He want to do it?

He wants to wipe them out and start fresh with Moses.

- 5) How does Moses respond to God? There are two parts to his response.

He asks what will the Egyptians say about God, and then asks what about His promise to the Patriarchs.

- 6) What does Moses' response teach us about his heart toward God?

God's reputation mattered to Moses. He cared about how the Egyptians viewed the God that was more powerful than all of theirs.

- 7) What does Moses' response teach us about his heart for the people of Israel?

He loved them even though they were full of sin.

Some people in your group may have questions about this passage. If so, here is some information from a commentary to help you. This picks up at Moses' response to God. (From *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*)

Such a destruction would vindicate Pharaoh and the gods of **Egypt** and would cause the Egyptians to mock the true God. Further, God would be viewed as One who breaks promises. He said He would make the descendants of **Abraham, Isaac, and Israel** (Jacob) innumerable (Gen. 15:5; 22:17a; 26:4a; 28:14; 32:13) and would take them into the Promised **Land** (Gen. 15:18–21; 22:17b; 26:4b; 28:13; 32:13). Moses recognized that the people had sinned so he did not seek to justify their actions. As a result, God **relented** of His threatened course of judgment. The word "relented" does not mean that God changed His mind but that He embarked on another course of action. The Hebrew word *nāham* suggests relief or comfort from a planned, undesirable course of action. God is not inflexible; He responds to individuals' needs, attitudes, and actions.ⁱⁱ

TAKING IT HOME

Moses is standing in the gap for the people of Israel. He is seeking God's original vision for His people. In the next section, we will be discussing more about how we are challenged to

do this for our families and others. God doesn't ask us to stand in the gap for only the ones we love, He challenges us further to stand in the gap for people we disagree with and might even consider an enemy.

One of the amazing things about the Bible is how it ties together the Old and New Testament. Check out how the passage from Romans brings us back to the scene from Exodus, at the mountain of God when the Israelites are given the Ten Commandments and The Law.

Romans 13:8-10

⁸ Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. ⁹ For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.ⁱⁱⁱ

8) What does Paul tell us fulfills the requirement of The Law?

9) Who is your neighbor?

10) Is there a family member that you struggle to stand in the gap for or show love to?

Matthew 5:43-47

⁴³ "You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵ In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶ If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷ If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that."^{iv}

11) From the passage above, who is Jesus teaching us to love and pray for?

12) How could Jesus' instructions be considered standing in the gap?

13) How does God model this love for us in the passage?

14) What is this command a challenge for us to do?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read and meditate on 1 Corinthians 13 and answer the following questions.

15) Who in your life do you need to show this kind of love to?

16) As you consider the definition of love in this chapter, is there an area in your life that you need to seek forgiveness from God and another person?

17) Are there areas that you need to grow in?

18) What is your “Egypt” (taskmaster or slave mentality) that is preventing you from real freedom?

If you answered yes to any of these, my encouragement to you is to take some time and seek God’s love for you. Loving others flows from the awe of God's love for us. Thinking back to what we studied about our identity over the last two weeks, we only find freedom at the side of Christ. We only love when we know to the deepest depths of ourselves how much God loves us.

ⁱ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Ex 32:9–16.

ⁱⁱ John D. Hannah, “Exodus,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 156.

ⁱⁱⁱ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Ro 13:8–10.

^{iv} Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Mt 5:43–47.