

Living Water Fellowship

10th Sunday after Pentecost – 6th August 2023

COME TO JESUS

OPENING SONG: Hosanna

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Exodus 19:1-9 & 16-20

¹ Exactly two months after the Israelites left Egypt, they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai.

² After breaking camp at Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai & set up camp there at the base of Mount Sinai.

³ Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The Lord called to him from the mountain & said, "Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: ⁴'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles' wings & brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you will obey me & keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. ⁶ You will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel."

⁷ So Moses returned from the mountain & called together the elders of the people & told them everything the Lord had commanded him. ⁸ All the people responded together, "We will do everything the Lord has commanded." So Moses brought the people's answer back to the Lord. ⁹ Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will come to you in a thick cloud, Moses, so the people themselves can hear me when I speak with you. Then they will always trust you."

¹⁶ On the morning of the third day, thunder roared & lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram's horn, and all the people trembled. ¹⁷ Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the Lord had descended on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the whole mountain shook violently. ¹⁹ As the blast of the ram's horn grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God thundered his reply. ²⁰ The Lord came down on the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses climbed the mountain.

CHILDREN'S TIME:

SONG: How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Exodus 19:1-9 & 16-20 and Exodus 20:1-21 & 31:18. What strikes you as you read these verses? What questions come to mind?
2. Ex 19:4-6 reveals a shift in the covenant from a "one-way" God initiated, lead & completed arrangement to a "mutual" covenant where God invites his people to take part in keeping it as a community. Why is that important? What are the implications?
3. In Ex 19:4 what clear distinction does God make between his people & the Egyptians? What is his intention for those he calls his own? How do you feel about that?
4. Describe the way in which the Lord revealed Himself to His people in Ex 19:16-19. Why does he do so in this manner?
5. When the people tremble in the presence of the Lord, how does Moses reassure them? See Exodus 20:18-20. Note two different uses of the word "fear" hear. What's the difference? Why is that significant?
6. Look at the basis for the 1st (Ex 20:3-6) & 3rd (Ex 20:8-11) commandments. Why are there further explanations behind these two commands & not all the others?
7. Of all the commandments, which one do you struggle with most regularly? Why do you think that is?
8. How does living within the relationship of trusting God necessarily lead to obedience in faith? If someone doubts God's goodness or sufficiency (that God is enough for everything I need) how will that impact their obedience?
9. Read through the commandments again. Most scholars note two "tables:" commandments addressing our relationship with God (1st, 2nd, & 3rd commandments) and those addressing our relationships with other people (4th – 10th). Within the last 7 also note that the 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th are all people we can sin against intimately or in person. The last three, 8th 9th, & 10th, remind us that we can sin against people we've never met or against whom we have not "done anything." Discuss these finer distinctions in your small group. What cautions do they raise for us?
10. How do these commands reveal God's heart & character? What is the crucial intent of living within the bounds of these commands? Is it to "gain God's favour" or "reveal the favour you have received"? How would you distinguish between those?
11. None of us can perfectly keep the law. In fact, God's law reveals our sin (Rom 3:20). What hope is there for lawbreakers like us (Rom 3:21-24)?

BIBLE READING: Exodus 20:1-21 & 31:18

¹ Then God gave the people these words: ² "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. ³ "You must not have any other god but me.

⁴ "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. ⁵ You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. ⁶ But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.

⁷ "You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.

⁸ "Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ You have six days each week for your ordinary work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons & daughters, your male & female servants, your livestock, & any foreigners living among you. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day & set it apart as holy.

¹² "Honour your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³ "You must not murder. ¹⁴ "You must not commit adultery. ¹⁵ "You must not steal. ¹⁶ "You must not testify falsely against your neighbour.

¹⁷ "You must not covet your neighbour's house. You must not covet your neighbour's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbour."

¹⁸ When the people heard the thunder & the loud blast of the ram's horn, & when they saw the flashes of lightning & the smoke billowing from the mountain, they stood at a distance, trembling with fear. ¹⁹ They said to Moses, "You speak to us, & we will listen. But don't let God speak directly to us, or we will die!" ²⁰ "Don't be afraid," Moses answered them, "for God has come in this way to test you, & so that your fear of him will keep you from sinning!" ²¹ As the people stood in the distance, Moses approached the dark cloud where God was.

^{31:18} When the Lord finished speaking with Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, written by the finger of God.

FAITH CHAT:

1. Someone says to you, "The commandments are the essence of Christianity. They're all you need." You respond....?
2. Someone says to you, "The commandments are irrelevant." You respond....?

THE MESSAGE: *A JOURNEY OF PROMISE: THE PROMISE SET IN STONE*

OFFERING SONG: Jesus Strong and Kind

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

The Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion:

VIDEO – O COME TO THE ALTAR (Elevation Worship) - CCL Licence 384660

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

(Name), † child of God...

"The Lord is your Shepherd, you shall not want." Psalm 23:1

-- Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: In Christ Alone

SHOW HIS LOVE