
GROWTH GROUP WINTER 2020

GOSPEL GLIMPSES: JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

WEEK 6 – FEBRUARY 16, 2020 - EXODUS 25:1-9 & JOHN 1:14-18

GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

- 1) Based on what you read in Exodus 25, what does a “best offering” to God look like to you? If you could give God anything, what would you give?

SETTING THE CONTEXT

This week we want to talk about the way in which God dwells among his people. In the Old Testament that “dwelling” took the form of the tabernacle and then later the temple. Moses received instructions, for constructing the tabernacle, from God (Exodus 25–31). Later on, King Solomon supervised the building of the temple in Jerusalem, which was based on the design of the tabernacle that it replaced (2 Chronicles 2–7).

The people of Israel, as they felt led, were to bring an offering to God for the building of the tabernacle. God could have provided all of this, but a part of following God is learning about generosity and self-sacrifice. It should also be noted that the offering is for God, and not merely for the tabernacle.

In verse 8, God makes it clear that His plan is to center Himself amongst his people, and have them organize their lives around Him. God’s plan was for Israel to make a “dwelling” for Him and that the people would then locate their tents and their homes around God’s home. They would be in relationship with God and the tabernacle would serve as a sort of visible reminder of the hope of heaven.

In the gospel of John, we are told that the word became flesh and “tabernacled” amongst us. This dwelling that John talks about is fulfilling God’s plan of a new temple and a new covenant. God’s presence will not be found in a building, but in a person.



In John 2:19-21, Jesus makes this clear when he teaches that he himself is the new temple. In response to the Jewish leaders asking for some sort of sign, “Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” 20 They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” 21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Moses was not permitted to see God face to face. However, in Jesus, people glimpsed the very essence of God, face to face. They watched him heal and teach and reveal what God’s love was all about. They saw him “dwell” amongst humanity. The purpose of Jesus coming into the world was to enable us to become children of God (John 1:12). Jesus portrays, details, narrates, and exegetes the very nature of God for the world, and calls us to build our lives around him.

EXPLORING THE TEXT

Read Exodus 25:1-9

¹ The Lord said to Moses, ² “Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering. You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give. ³ These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; ⁴ blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; ⁵ ram skins dyed red and another type of durable leather; acacia wood; ⁶ olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; ⁷ and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. ⁸ “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. ⁹ Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.

Read John 1:14-18

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

- 2) What are some offerings to God that are more difficult/less worthy to give? For you personally, what constitutes a worthy “tithe/offering” to God?
- 3) If money were no object, what kind of sanctuary would you build for God, if any? What are the benefits of “house churches?” How should Christians today balance spending for a sanctuary and spending for mission?
- 4) Moving through the Bible from God’s presence in the Garden, to God “tabernacling” with Israel in the desert, to the temple, to Jesus, how do you see God’s presence changing for God’s people?

- 5) Based on what you read in John 1, what does “the Word became flesh” mean? What does “lived among us” mean, and what do both phrases tell us about Jesus?
- 6) Regarding Jesus, what does “grace and truth/grace upon grace” mean? Who is this grace and truth for anyway?
- 7) What’s the difference between law, on the one hand, and grace and truth, on the other? Did your own parents raise you more with the law or with grace?

BRINGING IT HOME

- 8) In what ways do we see God through Jesus the Son? How are Father and Son different? And the Holy Ghost?