

Sermon: Identity Through Covenant.
Series: Exodus.

Scripture: Exodus 34:10-28.
Date: October 15, 2023

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) What comes to mind when you consider your identity? Other than “Christian” what identities have you come to embrace? (ex: teacher, mom/dad, golfer, good child/problem child)
- b) Satan’s lie is that we can choose or create our own identity (Review Genesis 3)? In what ways have you seen yourself trying to create your own identity? Is it working?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) God’s identity is revealed by his covenants, including his covenant with Israel at Sinai. Look at Exodus 34:1-28 again. How does God identify himself in this scripture?
- b) Even after the Israelite’s sinned with the golden calf (Ex. 32), God did not lower his standards or change his character (see 34:12-18). How does Ex. 34 reveal this unchanging standard of God? Why is this so important for us to understand if we want to worship God properly?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) Read Hebrews 8:6. What makes the New Covenant through Christ better than the Old Covenant through the law? What are the “better promises?”
- b) What new identity does the New Covenant give to us? Why is this identity successful at making us holy when the Old Covenant was not? Read Hebrews 10:14 for help.

APPLICATION

- a) God wants us to be holy first, then happy (happiness from holiness). Where in your life have you seen this principle at work (seeking holiness has led to happiness OR seeking happiness first did not lead to happiness after all)?
- b) God gave the Israelites three festivals to encourage them in their holiness (Unleavened Bread, Sabbath, Weeks). God has given us things like gathering for corporate worship on Sundays, observing the Lord’s table, and community study and prayer to encourage us in our holiness. How can you prioritize these things as a means of “new covenant empowered holiness” in your life?

PRAYER

- Praise God for his unchanging character and standard.
- Confess ways that you have sought to create your own identity.
- Thank Jesus for bringing us into his New Covenant.
- Ask God to help you to prioritize the things that produce holiness in your life.