**BCM Bible Study: February 10/11, 2021**

**Exodus 25:1-31:18; 35:1-40:33: The Tabernacle**

Introduction: Last week we ended by focusing on the fact that God wants to know you and be with you. This is a great bridge into the tabernacle section, because we will see that this is the heartbeat of the ending of Exodus.

Section 1: Why a Tabernacle? **Read Exodus 25:1-9**

* What is the reason for building the tabernacle? (v.8)
* **Read Exodus 25:10-22**. What purpose does the ark serve?
  + Why is the idea of God wanting to dwell with his people significant in light of what we read last week about the impossibility of seeing God?

**Watch Video #1: Understanding the Tabernacle.**

* What thoughts, questions, or reflections do you have after watching the video?

Let’s take a look for ourselves at how these themes show up in Scripture.

* *Holiness*: Compare the building materials in Exodus 25:10-13 and Exodus 30:17-18. What differences do you see?
  + What does it mean that God is holy? What does this mean for our interaction with him?
* *Heaven on Earth*: Take a lot at the intensity surrounding the event of entering the most holy place in the tabernacle: **Read Exodus 28:31-38.** The reason for such strict guidance is clear here in this passage - **Read Exodus 29:42-46.**
  + How does it impact you that God would go to such great lengths to be present with his people?
* *Re-Creation*: **Read Exodus 31:12-18**. What does God mean in verse 13 that he makes them holy? How is he doing this?

Section 2: The Tabernacle and the NT

**Watch Video #2: Tabernacle into the New Testament**

* What thoughts, questions, or reflections do you have after watching the video?

Let’s take a look at some of the verses and ideas mentioned in the video: **Read Matthew 28:18-20, John 1:14, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 6:19, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Hebrews 4:14-16, Revelation 21:22-23**

* Where do you see themes we have been talking about in these passages?
* Many of these passages may be familiar to you. How does looking at them through the lens of the tabernacle help you understand them in a new way?
* How does our understanding of the tabernacle shape how you think about Jesus and his purposes on earth?

Section 3: God in Us!

* Take a look again at **1 Corinthians 3:16-17** and **1 Corinthians 6:19**. What does it mean that you are God’s temple? What should this mean for how you live your life?
  + It is important to note that God wants to dwell *on earth*. This means that creation isn’t bad; it is simply broken and marred by sin. What does this mean about the way you treat your body and creation in general?
* Take a look again at **2 Corinthians 5:17.** “We are worthy of the Spirit’s indwelling because we have been re-created by the power of God into heavenly beings.” (Enns)
  + Does it strike you as odd to think of yourself as a heavenly being? What causes you to struggle to think of yourself that way?
  + As new creations/heavenly beings, we are called to be set apart. For Israel, this meant observing the Sabbath. We are called to live in a way that is a testimony to those around us. What might that look like?
  + A part of God’s design for his people is to live in loving community together. By doing so, they shine a light to the world. God’s community is, of course, the Church. Consider this quote: “Going to church is also a testimony to the chaotic world around us.” (Peter Enns)
    - What do you think of this quote? Is it difficult for you to go to church? Why? What are the most appealing parts of church for you?
* What do you think about the idea that God wants an intimate relationship with you? Do you find it hard to believe? Easy to believe? Why?
  + What can you do this week to draw more closely to God?