

DESERT LESSONS**PRIORITIES**

Exodus 32 – 36

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MESSAGE NOTES

Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ... These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us. — 1 Corinthians 10:6 & 11

When our priorities get derailed:

1. The golden gutter (Exodus 32)

Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God. They will know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them. I am the Lord their God. — Exodus 29:45 – 46

Whatever man loves, that is his god. For he carries it in his heart; he goes about with it night and day; he sleeps and wakes with it, be it what it may, wealth or self, pleasure or renown. — Martin Luther

2. God's not going (Exodus 33)

3. Glory and grace (Exodus 34)

4. Getting it right (Exodus 35)

When our priorities get back on track:

1. All of God's people respond with generosity — not just a few. (Exodus 35:4)

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. ... But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. — Matthew 6:24 & 33

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand. — 1 Chronicles 29:14

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income. — 1 Corinthians 16:2

2. Everything we give is ultimately to the Lord — not to the church. (Exodus 35:5a)

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering and come into His courts. — Psalm 96:8

3. Everyone responds out of a willing heart full of love — not out of obligation. (Exodus 35:5b)

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. — 2 Corinthians 9:7

4. Each thing we bring reflects our best offerings to the Lord — not the leftovers. (Exodus 35:5 – 9; 20 – 22 & 36:6 – 7).

I come trembling, but I do come. Please root from my heart all those things which I have cherished so long and which have become a very part of my living self, so that You may enter and dwell there without a rival. ... In Jesus' name, Amen.

— A. W. Tozer

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stuck with you from this past weekend's message?
- When Moses came down from Mount Sinai what were the people doing?
- Do you think most people in our culture "worship" (prioritize) money and stuff over God? Why or why not?
- Honestly, most of us have struggled with materialism in various ways. Can you share any ways living in a materialistic culture has been tough for you?
- What method does God have for helping us not become fixated on accumulating more?
- How do we practically honor God with what we have?
- When we think of ourselves as "stewards" of God's money, rather than "owners" of our own money, what effect does that have on our life? How does that mentality affect our generosity?
- When Moses invited the people to use their wealth to build a place of worship, how did the people respond?
- How would you like to grow in your own perspectives on stewardship?
- What step could you take this week to honor God with what you have? What effect might that step have on your own heart and life moving forward?