

THE STORY OF REDEMPTION: EXODUS 31:12-32:35

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. God gives the command to observe the Sabbath rest just after having commanded much work to be done in the construction of the tabernacle. What strategies do you use to make room for rest even when you have much to do and/or already feel overwhelmed?
3. Verses 31:16-17 make it clear that the Sabbath is to be observed forever, yet the New Testament (Col. 2:16-17, Rom. 14:5) makes it clear that New Covenant believers are not bound to the Sabbath. How is this consistent?
4. Like the Israelites at the beginning of chapter 33, can you recall a time in your own life when God's presence or direction seemed to be absent? What was your reaction and could you have handled it better?
5. How can a sovereign God "change His mind" (32:14)? (See Numbers 23:19, Jeremiah 26:19, Jonah 3:10, Amos 7:1-6)
6. Exodus 32:19 tells us that "Moses' anger burned". Do you think this is a righteous anger or a sinful one - and how can we tell the difference?
7. In this passage, Aaron compromised to the evil desires of the Israelites and then downplayed his involvement. (Compare vs 1-6, 35 with vs 23-24.) Where do we see similar patterns in the church today? How do we sin in similar ways and what can we do to cultivate a fixed line of holiness in our lives?
8. If anyone deserved to die for this sin it seems as though it should have been Aaron. Read the account in Deuteronomy 9:15-21. Why was Aaron allowed to live while 3,000 others had to die (vs 28)?