Exodus

Lesson #12, Chapters 34-40

Scrunched into our final lesson of Exodus are treasures you won’t want to miss! Be sure to ask the Lord, as the psalmist did, “Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law (Psalm 119:18).”

1. We can’t start into Exodus 34 without first reviewing previous events. What transpired in Exodus 32 and 33 that led to Moses needing two more stone tablets?
2. What does God graciously offer to do for Moses and the nation in Exodus 34:1-4?
3. Exodus 34:5-9 gives us the details of the actual event discussed between the Lord and Moses in Exodus 33:17-23. What do you learn about the Lord Himself as you piece together information from those two passages? What other nuggets stand out to you as you look at these passages and the complete story?
4. What does God intend to do according to Exodus 34:10? Summarize the details God imparts to Moses from Exodus 34:10-28.
   1. Compare this offer from God with another one found in Genesis 17:1-8.
5. No one can come in contact with God and not be changed. How was Moses affected by his time in the Lord’s presence? See Exodus 34:29-35.
6. We aren’t physically traipsing up the mountain to enter into God’s presence, but we do have the privilege of coming before Him, nonetheless. Surely, there should be some difference in our hearts and lives because of the time we spend with Him. What do you learn from the following Scriptures about what may hinder our time in God’s presence? See 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Corinthians 3:15-16; Hebrews 4:2; 10:19-22; 11:6; 12:18-29.
7. *Eager Beaver Question*. Paul uses this episode (Exodus 34:29-35) to illustrate some important biblical truths. Though the original audience was never privy to this new revelation, we are, so let’s see what further insights we can glean into the things of God. What do you learn about 2 Corinthians 3:7-18? How does Paul use the Exodus 34 account to make his point in the passage he is writing about?

He has made us beautiful; decked our souls with rays of his own beauty, made us partakers of the divine nature, filled us with the fulness of God, conformed us to himself, who is the brightness of divine glory. And now we are all glorious within; the King delights in our beauty. There is a brighter lustre on our souls than shone in Moses’s face when he had been talking with God, or sparkled in the habit of Christ and his glorious companions when they were transfigured. If the beauty of a sanctified soul could be made visible to the world, the sun would be no longer esteemed a glorious creature, nor the fairest face lovely. Indeed, it was no easy matter to beautify such deformed souls. Christ tells us what it cost him in the text: he loved us and washed us from our sins with his blood.[[1]](#footnote-1) ~David Clarkson

1. What is one of the first things God wants Moses to communicate to the people? See Exodus 35:1-3.
2. The next thing the Lord wanted the people to understand and obey is contained in a larger section. Distill God’s instruction down to its bare bones commands, the attitudes the people should possess, and any other nuggets you notice from Exodus 35:4-35.
3. In Exodus 35:10, Moses talks about the *skillful* [NKJV *gifted*] workmen and then continues to refer to them that way to the end of Chapter 39. Skim through Exodus 35:10-39:43, considering how the person used their “skill” for the Lord.
4. Also look up Exodus 28:3; 31:6; Romans 11:29; 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:4-13; 1 Peter 4:10-11 to further develop our understanding of God’s gifting to His children. Summarize what you learn from those verses about God’s gifts and their purpose.
5. In this section and the other passages we just looked at, we see how God gives His children gifts and skills for the benefit of others. We also see how those skills and gifts aren’t static; they can be developed and honed to bring even more glory to the Lord. What would you say is your own gifting from the Lord, and how are you developing or using it to bless your local congregation?
6. In the book of Exodus, we come across the word *contribution* [NIV, NKJV *offering*]. In fact, the first time it is used in the Bible is in Exodus 25:2. Let’s form a deeper understanding of giving here in the book of Exodus. Summarize what you learn about the “contribution” from the following passages: Exodus 25:2-3; 30:13-15; 35:5, 21-24, 29; 36:3-7. What things stand out to you from these verses?
7. It’s particularly noteworthy that in this portion of Exodus the people gave so freely and willingly that the craftsmen actually had to tell them to stop giving because they had more than enough to complete construction on the tabernacle. Consider what attitudes and truths about God undergird that kind of exuberant giving?
8. Summarize what you learn about giving from the following passages. As you do so, consider what attitudes should accompany our giving. See 2 Chronicles 31:4-10; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 11-12; 9:1-5, 6-12; Philippians 4:15-19.
9. When God ensures that we have abundant detail from the Scriptures about something, it means we need to take notice of it. The details about the tabernacle and its construction begin in Exodus 25 where Moses is told by God, “According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it.” The final instructions about the tabernacle are concluded in Exodus 40. What would the nation of Israel have learned *about God* as they received this vital information about the tabernacle?
10. We too have things to learn *about God* as we study these passages about the tabernacle. What is it about the tabernacle and all the details about its construction that is important for us to know and consider *today*?
11. Not only can we learn more about God from Moses’ account about the tabernacle, but we have the added bonus of further revelation concerning this earthly place of worship. What increased insights about the tabernacle do you gain from the author of Hebrews from the following selection of verses? See Hebrews 9:6-10, 21-25; 10:1-4.
12. What happened in Exodus 40:1-33 and when did it take place?
13. After the tabernacle and the priests were prepared and offerings given to the Lord, what happened? See Exodus 40:34-35.
14. What is the final and fitting epitaph for this book? See Exodus 40:36-38. What do those last words communicate about the God who had rescued the Israelites from Egypt?
15. Exodus is a book about *transitions*. It’s a story about leaving an old life and entering into a new one. It’s a *relationship* tale, as the nation of Israel learns how to walk well with their holy, delivering, providing God. And, the book of Exodus is a story in the *middle*. The Israelites’ story isn’t completed; they haven’t yet arrived in the Promised Land; they haven’t even made it through to the end of the 40 years in the wilderness. It is a story of *preparation* as God teaches and trains them for the days ahead. *That same God is at work in your life—in your transitions, in your relationship with Him, as you navigate your unfinished story, while trusting the One who leads you.* What are some lessons you want to take with you from the book of Exodus that will help you live well in the middle of your story?

Step by step, O loving Savior,  
In Thine own appointed way,  
In the path which Thou hast chosen,  
Lead us on, from day to day.

*Lead us on, O lead us ever,  
Till we all Thy face shall see:  
For our hope is in Thy mercy,  
We are trusting only Thee.*

Lead us on, though stormy billows  
Wild and dark before us rise;  
Let Thy precious bow of promise  
Shine resplendent from the skies.

Lead us on, our souls defending,  
Till the latest storm is past,  
And we hear our loved ones singing,  
Welcome, welcome home at last!

~Fanny Crosby

1. David Clarkson, *The Works of David Clarkson*, vol. 3 (Edinburgh: James Nichol, 1864), 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)