Discovering Exodus: Finding prayer points, testimonies and journaling questions that will engage your heart with the Father.

Chapter 23: Blueprint of Kingdom Life

**□ The Invitation**: Invite the Holy Spirit to show you something new as you read through the chapter. The Father desires to meet with you and share something with you today. You may find it in the reading or you may hear His Voice speaking to Your Spirit in the quiet of this moment.

**□ The Reading:** Read Exodus Chapter 23. Record any thoughts from the chapter, questions you have or verses that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you while reading.

**□ The Focus**: Today’s focus is a reflection.

God established the twelve tribes of Israel to carry the message of the Kingdom. The laws provided the way to live a Kingdom life, which was truly radical living. No other culture lived like the nation of Israel was called to live. Beginning in Exodus 20 through Exodus 23 and chapters of Leviticus and Deuteronomy, we are shown the blueprint of Kingdom life. The law pointed to what walking with God looked like. As we will see in the chapters to come, God’s Presence literally dwelt among the nation of Israel in the holy of holies inside the Tabernacle. He was near to His chosen people. In no other time in history had a nation experienced God’s tangible presence in their midst. In order to live in right relationship with God and man, God gave them the law. This wasn’t about outward behavior but it mainly was about the position of the heart. God desired that their hearts would be completely His.

In today’s reflection, I want to take you to Matthew 5-6-7, the Sermon on the Mount. There are many similarities between the Old Covenant Law and the New Covenant way of living that Jesus introduces in Matthew 5-6-7. If you have never read these chapters, I encourage you to take some time to read through them. This is the “new law” of relating to God and mankind. The Sermon on the Mount introduced to Jesus’ disciples what walking with God looked like in this new age. It is all about the heart being surrendered to Jesus. Throughout Jesus’ earthly ministry, he called out the Pharisees, those who had studied the letter of the law and made demands on the people’s behavior. There was no heart behind the demands. Jesus is bold in his language to them. “*Pharisees clean the inside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You foolish people!....woe to you Pharisees, because you give a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God....woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogue...woe to you because you are like unmarked graves, which people walk over without knowing it...woe to you because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry...woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered and you have hindered those who were entering,*” Luke 11:39-52.

A positioning of the heart is what Jesus is after. Like the Old Testament law, the new covenant requires radical living. I call this the Upside Down Kingdom way of life: **The Last is first, Giving is receiving, Dying is living, Losing is finding, Least is the greatest, Poor is rich, Weakness is strength, and Serving is ruling**. This way of living makes no sense to the world. This way of living offends the heart, until the heart is set on Jesus. The goal of the Sermon on the Mount is not to modify behavior. Jesus is after your heart. Jesus desires that your heart would be completely His, holding nothing back. Love fulfills the law. When you love Jesus and love others, you fulfill this new covenant law.

Mike Bickle says, “Radical obedience is disruptive to our flesh, but it causes our spirits to soar in God”. Let your spirit soar!!!

Reflection:

Read through the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12. What do you see in this passage that describes the blueprint of Kingdom life?