

Sermon Reflections

A Prayerful and Empowered People. (Exodus 30-31)

A meeting with God leaves an indelible mark. Are these marks seen in you?

Five marks of God's people:

1. A Prayerful People (Exodus 30:1-10)

- Describe the process of burning incense explained in this text. List some of the details outlined.
- According to Psalm 142:1-2 and Revelations 5:8 what does incense represent?
- Juxtapose the practice of prayer with the process of burning incense outlined here. (Describe similarities and differences.)
- List Scriptures that remind us of the continual access we have to God through prayer. What makes this access possible?

2. A Redeemed People (Exodus 30:11-16)

- Describe the "Census Tax". Who was to pay this tax and what was its purpose?
- Consider the mindset of the payer. What are some reasons why he would decide to pay this fee?
- You cannot be one of God's people if you don't see yourself as guilty and in need of redemption. Rick mentioned: "A payment is needed to come before this holy God." List Scriptures that remind us of our need for redemption. List Scriptures that remind us of the redemption we have in Christ.
- What are some key differences in the price that Christ paid and the atonement offering mentioned here in this passage?

3. A Sanctified People (Exodus 30:17-38)

- Define "sanctified" in simple terms.
- What are the two sanctifying actions that God is commanding in this Scripture?
- For believers in Christ what does it mean to be sanctified?
- Read 1 Peter 1:14-16
 - What is this Scripture telling us to avoid? Give practical examples of current struggles.
 - What is this Scripture calling us to? Describe ways we can put this into practice.
- As believers in Christ why is it important to live differently than the rest of the world? (1 Cor 6:11)

4. An Empowered People (Exodus 31:1-11)

- God empowers people, by His Spirit, to serve. List everything that God has provided for Oholiab and Bezalel from this passage.
- Read 1 Cor 12:4-7 and 1 Peter 4:10-11. As a New Testament believer, how does God similarly equip saints for service? What is the purpose of this empowering/equipping?
- How do you serve the body at GBC currently? What are some practical ways that you can rely on God's power and grace as you serve.

5. A Reliant People (Exodus 31:12-18)

- Review Exodus 16:22-30.
- What is the purpose of God's command to rest? What is He trying to teach His people?
- Provide examples of how you have struggled with trusting in God's provision for the future in your life?
- Two telltale signs that one is not trusting fully in Christ are self-righteousness and/or a nagging persistent guilt. How do these indicators reveal a lack of trust in Him?