

# Sermon Reflections

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## *Won't You Be My Neighbor (Exodus 25-27, Part 1)*

**Summary:** God is a relational God, who moves in close. Stop running. Stop ignoring Him. Draw near to the relational God.

### **When God Moves In...**

#### **1. Worship His Royal Highness (25:1-9)**

- He deserves to be worshipped, and it should be worship fit for a king. God wants to be with His people in fellowship. This fellowship must be heartfelt and obedient. How do you feel knowing that God wants to be close to you?
- The Israelites had plundered the Egyptians for all of their gold and nice possessions. God was asking for them to give from their heart, and only the best would be acceptable to be used in the Tabernacle. How can you give from your heart in today's world? What are you willing to give from your best possessions?
- Come freely and sincerely to this fellowship. God is not going to force himself on you without real heart change. Don't overlook the greatness of your king. If God doesn't seem great, where is the problem? Our worship should be humble.
- God gives the instructions for how to build the Tabernacle so that He can be close to, have table-like fellowship with, and travel with, His people.

#### **2. Welcome His Presence (25:10-40)**

- The tabernacle means God wants to get close, He wants to dwell with His people. The tabernacle was constructed as a tent in order to travel with them.
- The Ark of the Covenant is a box, but it is not meant to be empty. Put the stones of the covenant in it. These are the terms of agreement of how God relates with Israel. The Mercy Seat is a lid or cover. There are many different names for this, one of these is Atonement Cover. Meaning wrongs or sins can be covered over. He starts right in the middle and works his way out. God's feet are resting on the Mercy Seat, as with the interaction on Mt Sinai.
- Table of showbread or Bread of the Presence. What's to happen here? What is the symbology of the twelve loaves of bread?
- Golden Lampstand or the light of God's face. All about God's presence or having God's face shining down on us. He wants to be in fellowship with us.
- With all these steps God is taking, how are you responding to his advances? What does it look like to not welcome Him? The Tabernacle teaches us that that is a lie. He came down from Heaven to be with you. Read John 1:14. He came and dwelt (tabernacled) with us, this is the same Hebrew word as in Exodus. If you still doubt that he wants to be near us, read John 17:24.