

Exodus 34
“Don’t Live In The Past, Move Into The Future ”

~ INTRO ~

TONIGHT...

- We move into (Exodus 34) as the narrative continues.
 - This chapter continues on the heels of great failure...
 - By both the priest & the people.
 - (Golden calf worship)

SO... RIGHT UP FRONT...

- I want you to *open your heart* to the topic at hand...
 - 2nd Chances.

IDEA #1 – SECOND CHANCES

THE STONE TABLETS...

- Were a symbol of God’s relationship with Israel – a covenant.
 - Like a wedding ring that represents a lifelong promise.
- So the smashing of the tablets reflected...
 - The failure & the inability of man to keep God’s law.
 - It was frustration from the presence of sin.

(Rom. 3:9-10 & 23) NLT

BUT...

- Look at how God views us...
 - (Ps. 103:13-14) NLT

IN THE N.T. PAUL WRESTLED WITH FAILURE TOO...

- (Rom. 7:1-6) NKJV
 - When we reduce our relationship with Jesus...
 - To a list of do’s & don’ts...
 - It stirs our flesh to rebellion.

WE ALWAYS HAVE TO RELATE TO GOD BY GRACE!

(Rom. 7:18-24) NKJV

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HOWEVER...

- This is what God desires (Ps. 103:10-12) NLT

WHEN DISCIPLINE COMES...

- Please remember...
 - God is “*shaping us*”... **not** “*breaking us.*”

AND HERE’S OUR PART...

- (Phil. 3:13-14) NKJV
 - *Forgetting* = no longer being mentally or emotionally...
 - Controlled by the failure or scars of the past!

(Ps. 25:7) NKJV

“Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions...”

- Instead of dwelling on past guilt or mistakes...
 - Christians are to trust in God's forgiveness...
 - And move forward in faith.

AS I AGE...

- I find it interesting to read the examples Paul gives the church.
 - At about 60-yrs old... in a deathbed letter to Timothy he said...

(2 Tim. 2:3-7) NKJV

- a) Warrior = Faithful to the mission
- b) Athlete = Disciplined in all avenues of life
- c) Farmer = Hardworking to the point of exhaustion

LESSON:

- Don’t be shackled by regret...
 - But grow in maturity by learning from past mistakes...
 - And focusing on the future.

IDEA #2 – THE GOODNESS OF GOD: (Ex. 34:5-9)

IN THIS SCENE...

- God reveals His goodness by proclaiming...
 - Mercy / grace / longsuffering / goodness / & truth (v.6).

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- It’s His character!
 - He can’t deny Himself (2 Tim 2:13).

IDEA #3 – GOD’S DIRECTION RENEWED: (Ex. 34:10-28)

THE SUCCESS OF YOUR FAITH...

- Is on God (v.10)
 - God will complete what He started (Phil 1:6) NKJV

IDEA #4 – VEILED GLORY: (Ex. 34:29-35)

~ IN CLOSING ~

THE GREAT LESSON FROM (Ex. 34)...

Is not to live in the past. Maybe like the Israelites, you broke God's commands. Yet, all God wants from you is your honesty to confess and move forward. Don't remain in a mental or emotional condition that turns away from God. ¹

(Jer. 32:33) NKJV

- Keep your face pointed toward grace.
 - For it is in the face of God that we are made whole.

¹ ChatGPT search results 10/15/2025.