

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

4/7/19

Text: Exodus 34:1-10

Title: God's Covenant: Steadfast Love

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In his sermon, Tim walked us through Exodus 34, as God is reestablishing His covenant relationship with His people after they had broken it by worshipping idols. As we saw, God's covenant proposal for Israel is not a contract, where the main focus is self-protection and limiting personal risk. Rather, it is a marriage proposal, where the main focus is God's concern for the well-being of Israel, and His agreement to care for them and be faithful to them, even to His own detriment, betrayal, pain and suffering. Like an unfaithful wife, we (and all of God's people) have been unfaithful to God our husband, worshipping, loving, and insidiously giving our hearts, minds and bodies to other lovers. But God, in His amazing mercy and steadfast love, forgives iniquity, transgression and sin. Rather than punishing His people, He takes the punishment for the very crimes committed against Him, and lays them on His Son on the cross. Without any merit, valuation, or personal benefit, God lovingly chose to take upon Himself the consequence of our sin and betrayal, and marry us, all because He loves us.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. Just as Tim's friend punched in the glass door and yet Tim was the one who got cut, we are the ones who break the covenant, but God is the one who experiences the injury.*
 - Where can you see the "injury" you've experienced through a broken covenant?**
 - Where can you see the "injury" you've inflicted through breaking a covenant?**
- 2. Tim said we don't understand Covenants, and we often treat our relationships like Contracts.*
 - Which relationship(s) do you tend to treat like a contract (Limiting your risk and protecting yourself)?**
 - Which relationships do you tend to treat as a covenant (committing yourself to someone, knowing there will be risk of sacrifice, pain and even betrayal)?**
- 3. In response to our unfaithfulness and betrayal, God still offers His love and mercy, and proposes to marry us. Like the wife responding to her unfaithful husband, God simply chooses to "put His love on us."*
 - Where do you demand justice or repayment, rather than "putting your love" on someone?**
 - How does God's love change how you respond?**

The Facilitator

WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

- 1. Worship the LORD for His holiness to commit so radically to do us good. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His graciousness to pledge Himself to our good – to Covenant with us – even to His own hurt.*
- 2. How have you lived as if God cannot be trusted or as if He does not deserve your loyalty? Confess your pride and rebellion to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to work within you His own loyalty to His Father.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for His love, wisdom and power to do marvels to save us. Thank Him for the awesome things He has done: becoming human, dying to atone for your sin and being raised from death to save you.*
- 4. Who do you know that lives as if they owe no one anything, but they are owed much by everyone else? Pray for them, asking the Lord to open their eyes to how distorted their selfishness is, and change them by His grace.*
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of love, especially for the LORD. Pray that He would so persuade you of God's mercy to covenant with you that your loyalty to Him would grow deeper and deeper.*