

THE CROSSING CHURCH

As we come to the end of October, I wanted to take a few minutes to reflect on where we've been in Exodus and give you a little glimpse of where we're headed in November. I know some of you have missed a Sunday or two, and I thought this would be a good opportunity for all of us to regroup.

I hope you're enjoying this journey as much as I am! One of the greatest things we've learned is that our attention has shifted from what God saved us FROM to what God saved us FOR.

Exodus 19:4 says, "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself."

Don't miss that! God didn't simply bring Israel out of bondage to give them a better life. He brought them out to bring them unto Himself! To know Him, draw close to Him, learn His ways, and discover His plans for their lives. Church, that's still what He desires for us today!

Think about everything we've witnessed along the way. God delivered them from Egypt, opened the Red Sea, provided food when they were hungry and water when they were thirsty. He gave them victory over their enemies and taught them the importance of depending on Him and supporting one another. And through it all, He was preparing them for something greater—a relationship with Himself.

But we've also watched Israel struggle with fear, doubt, complaining, and disobedience. Sound familiar? How often do we find ourselves questioning God when things aren't going our way, even after everything He's already brought us through?

Then we arrived at Mount Sinai, where God began preparing His people for His presence. They were instructed to sanctify themselves and recognize His holiness. I believe this ought to challenge every one of us. Have we become so comfortable with church that we've lost some of our reverence for God? Are we preparing our hearts for worship, or have we allowed it to become just another part of our weekly routine?

And then in Exodus 20, God spoke! Before the commandments were ever written on tablets of stone, the people heard the voice of God. He was teaching them what it meant to belong to Him and how their lives should reflect that relationship.

Now, we understand that we're saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, not by keeping the law. But that grace ought to produce a desire within us to live differently!

That's really where I want to encourage you. Are we growing through what we're learning? Are we becoming more willing to forgive, more comfortable praying, more passionate in worship, more willing to serve, sacrifice, and share our faith? Are we trusting God with things we once tried to control ourselves?

Or are we simply learning more about God without actually growing closer to Him?

As we move into November, we'll begin looking at God's instructions for how His people were to live, how they were to treat one another, and how they were to honor Him in everyday life. And before long, we'll

see something beautiful unfold—God's desire to dwell among His people! There's so much here that points us toward Jesus Christ and what He's made possible for us.

I also want to ask something of you. If you've had questions about anything we've studied in Exodus, please send them to me at Pk.mcpeek@gmail.com. Maybe there's something you didn't understand, something you've always wondered about, or something you'd like us to discuss further. I'd love to hear from you and address some of those questions as we continue.

Church, my desire isn't simply for us to finish another book of the Bible. I want us to be different because we've studied it! I want our faith to grow, our worship to deepen, our families to become stronger, and our desire to know Him to become greater.

Remember, the greatest thing God offered Israel wasn't the Promised Land. It was Himself. And the greatest blessing we have today is the opportunity to know Him through Jesus Christ.

I love you, church! I'm thankful for what God is doing among us, and I believe He's got so much more to show us.

Let's keep growing!

Love you all,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kermit", written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Kermit