

Longing for Yesterday (Exodus 19.1-9; 32:1-6)

Discussion Questions

1. When God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt it was a clear confirmation of their identity and purpose as the people of God.
 - a. How has the Lord's grace shaped or re-shaped the way you think about your purpose and/or identity?
 - b. How has the message of Jesus reshaped your past?

2. When God saves us, he delivers us from the bondage of our past idolatry. But when our present circumstances are challenging, confusing, or discouraging we can often be tempted to want to return to some aspect of our old way of life.
 - a. How have you learned to deal with this tendency? How has God taught you to fight the tendency to want to "return to Egypt?"

3. We tend to idolize the past when we lack hope for the future. This is a real temptation as we live through this socially unstable time due to the novel coronavirus. This also applies to the church, as we struggle to learn to be more faithful to the call to make disciples in a different time. The reality is that things have changed and it's hard to tell what the new normal will be and how long it will take to get there.
 - a. How do we walk the fine line of being both grateful for God's past blessings and being open to the future?
 - b. In what ways have you been tempted to worship a past grace (e.g. gift) more than the God who gave it to us?
 - c. Is there something that you are currently being forced or challenged to leave behind right now and trust that God has something better for you?
 - i. How are you doing with that?
 - ii. What makes it so hard to leave it behind?