

The Life Challenge

Title: The Lord is There
Text: Exodus 40:34-38
Speaker: Matt Ewert
Date: February 23, 2020



WARM-UP

Share one thing that stood out to you from this past weekend's worship service.

DISCUSSION

What is the worst experience you have ever had of being "stood up"; showing up somewhere expecting to meet someone and they weren't there?

Read Exodus 40:16-38

- What do you think this experience would have been like for the Israelites, witnessing God's glory fully inhabiting the tent of meeting that they had built for him? What would they be thinking, feeling, wondering as the cloud of God's presence filled the tabernacle?
- How might that experience have been made different by the fact that it came on the heels of them having turned from God to worship a golden calf?

Exodus chapters 35-39 painstakingly describe the Israelites working energetically and precisely to do "everything just as the Lord had commanded Moses" (Exodus 39:32) in regards to the building of the tabernacle.

- What does this careful obedience, on the heels of the golden calf incident, say about the Israelite people?
- What bearing might that have had on the fact that God's glory filled the tabernacle after it's completion?
- Is there any way in which this is informative for our own lives?

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DISCUSSION

Matt suggested that the name/title of God "Adonai Shammah" (The Lord is There) does not merely denote the presence of God, but speaks of God's presence in the context of restoration. In Ezekiel 48:35, as the prophet shares an image of a restored Jerusalem, he writes, "And the name of the city from that time on will be: The Lord is there."

- What do you think it means to say that God is a God who restores?
- Give examples of what that can/does look like today?

Read Revelation 21:1-5

- In what ways does this name/title of "Adonai Shammah" (The Lord is There), in connection with God's restoring work, carry over into the picture painted by the New Testament?

Prayer

- Is there a way in which you are in need of experiencing "Adonai Shammah" ... in need of God's restoring presence to be "there" for you in your life?
- Take time to share together, and pray for one another, around those issues.