

Handout May 10, 2024

The Staff of God

Welcome back and here we go!

Tonight, we will be discovering how to become more effective as individuals and as a group!

- 1) We all are the _____ of _____.
 - a. Holiness, Truth & the Presence of God
 - b. The whole concept is not that we become better, rather that we become more like Christ.

Exodus 4:1-5 ¹ Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you.'" ² So the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod." ³ And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. ⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), ⁵ "that they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

Exodus 14-20 ¹⁴ So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. ¹⁵ Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. ¹⁶ So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. ¹⁷ And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs." ¹⁸ So Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, "Please let me go and return to my brethren who are in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." ¹⁹ Now the Lord said to Moses in Midian, "Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead." ²⁰ Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

- 2) God _____ Moses with a _____.

Websters - **Staff**: A rod carried as a symbol of office of authority. A strong straight branch used for support, balance, and defense!

The *Staff of God* was used in many of the plagues!

- 3) Moses was the head but the _____ was in the _____.

Let's not forget the Red Sea, the quail, the budding staff, etc.... In fact, the Aaron's rod is in the Ark of the Covenant!

Staff - Websters: A group of assistants to a manager, executive or other person in authority.

- 4) You _____ are the _____ here!
- Everyone here is a volunteer.
 - Staff can be dangerous (selfish, ambitious, jealous).
 - Staff can be seeking Christ and supporting one another.

John 15-1-17 ¹⁵ *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. ⁹ As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.*

¹⁰ *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, that you love one another."*

- 5) We are all _____ staff.
- How can we work wonders?
Parking Lot Sale
Yielding to Christ - be more like Christ.
 - Personal Growth is my #1 Goal here.
 - It is not that we know more, become better at not sinning or can discern other's flaws.
- 6) A staff that is _____ can be _____.
- We are the *Staff of God*.
 - We must lay down our lives.
 - Tuesday's Bible Study: "What is life?"
 - Read your book, Holiness, Truth & the Presence of God.