

FOLLOWING OR FLOUNDERING, ONE WEEK AT A TIME **EXODUS 31**
HOW CHRIST'S TRIUMPHAL ENTRY TURNED TO A TRAGIC ENDING

- Intro:
1. Dramatic reading of John 12:12-38
 2. Moses, an Old Testament type of Christ, had lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt, and is receiving instruction and light from God for the people on Mt. Sinai.
 3. Accepting what God reveals in the light can save us from doubting in the darkness of tragedy.

Prop: **You must Sustain Your Service.**

I. By Exercising Your God-Given Gift of Service (31:1-11a).

1. v.3, "fill" implies emptiness or lack (Eph.5:18)
v.3, "wisdom" = the skillful use of knowledge... Unique abilities for making the Tabernacle include manual skills plus intellectual wisdom essential to all forms of art. Artistic talent of all kind is a divine gift according to James 1:17.
v.6, "wise hearted" = those who seek God's best both intellectually and emotionally—fact & feeling governed by God's Word, not fleshly desires or selfish interests.
2. The easiest work for anyone is what they are gifted to do.
3. Eph. 2:10; Rom.8:28 → after you are saved, you are definitely called by God to do specific good works related to His work!
4. Will a yarn weaving machine do a good job weaving copper wire for the power company?
5. Although you and I can do many things, folks, will you answer God's call for specific service in building Christ's church?

II. By Following Your God-Given Leader in Service (31:11b).

1. "thee" = Moses, God's appointed leader (Rom.13:1; 1st Peter 5:1-4) would feed the WORD of God to the PEOPLE of God.
2. The blessings of God's love come only through Obedience to God's Will.
3. John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."
Colossians 3:15-17 speaks of our interdependence, while Ephesians 4:11 notes the various roles God calls us to fulfill.
4. Even a good machine must do the work its creator made it to do, and do it as the operator commands it according to the creator's instructions.
5. So, friend, what therefore God has joined together the day you made a covenant with this church as a body-member, let not

narrow self-will put asunder! Will you renew your commitment to serving the Lord diligently here today?

III. By Keeping God's Day as A Public Sign (31:12-19).

1. v.13, "sign"= a signal, as a flag or beacon (public declaration)
v.13, "sanctify" = to make or pronounce as clean
v.14, "defileth" = to bore a hole in, to wound or dissolve
v.14, "death" = cut off from the people (in a harsh land would likely also result in physical death)
v.15, "work" = lit. employment; pursuit of career
v.16, "perpetual" = concealed (ie vanishing point), time out of mind; eternal (past & future)
v.16, "covenant" = compact or confederacy sworn between two people (in this case God & Believers)
v.17, "refreshed" = to be breathed upon
2. A new spirit of life and service comes from concentrated exposure to and ministry from the gifts of others' service.
3. The Sabbath (7th day) was for Israel to observe; While the church is a new creation given a new day to worship with the same principles setting it apart in honor of God's Son (for fellowship & preaching, Acts 20:7; for tithing, 1st Cor.16:2; for worship-prayer-meditation, Rev.1:10)
4. Can we break our marriage by taking off our ring? NO But, we can ruin our relationship and create hurtful relationships or even tempt others to evil by being unfaithful to outward signs.
5. Dear friend, God has sent His Word by His will to help you know Him.

Conc: You may not feel adequate to do the work God has appointed for His people, but He promises that your service can be sustained because of HIS PROMISE

1. to give you the talents,
2. to give you leadership in where and how they can be used,
3. to give you refreshing of spirit as a sign for all to behold.

Jesus came leading the crowds—will you follow Him today by faith, come today to turn from your sin and receive Jesus Christ's forgiveness and new-creation in you for God's Great Service.

Invit. Hymn: _____ (# _____)



Children's Challenge

Complete & Return to Pastor: 1=sweet 4=chalk-art print 8=Christian Book
16=Mini-New Testament 32=Leather Bound Large New Testament

MY NAME is _____

Today's Date _____

Today's Preacher _____

Listen & Learn...Preacher's Outline Clues

Book	Chapter	Verses
<i>You Must Sustain Your</i>	○	_____
<i>By: Exercising Your God-Given</i>	○	○
<i>By: Following Your God-Given</i>	_____	_____
<i>By: Meeting Together on</i>	_____	○

(Write circled letters—make a word from verse 17)

CHALLENGE Today...

God was "refreshed" by a special day of the week. What should you promise?

(something to remember, practice, or change in my life)

Dear JESUS, with your help and strength,

*I will _____
every week, because I Love You!*

*Love, _____
(your name)*



"Welcoming Your Family into God's Family!"
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