



Series: In the Waiting

Message: What Came Out of Me?

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Smythe Street Church

## Last Week... In the Waiting

Last week we talked about how God responds to us when we are fearful and our world has been turned upside down. We looked at the story of Elijah, a great prophet who after what should have been a great day was overcome with distress and depression, even asking God to let him die.

**WHEN ELIJAH WAS AFRAID AND WEAK,**  
**GOD DID NOT CONDEMN HIM.**  
**GOD SUSTAINED ELIJAH.**

If you were not here last Sunday, you can find links to last week's message on our website: [www.ssc.church](http://www.ssc.church)

But if you are struggling, I would point you back to the promise of Jesus we concluded with last Sunday.

Matthew 28:20 (NIV)

"I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

## This Week – God's People the 'Children of Israel'

This week, I was drawn to a passage I would not normally bend towards, a story of the 'Children of Israel', God's people, who when waiting for Moses did things they would not have done when he was around. I honestly find that the parallels to what many of us are experiencing are striking.

**Background: Story of Children of Israel escaping from Egypt** (you may have seen the basics in the classic movie 'The Ten Commandments' with Charlton Heston).

After leaving Egypt they travel to Mt. Sinai (where Elijah went in last week's message). Moses goes up receives the 10 Commandments, comes back down the mountain to share them with the Israelites, who pledge themselves to obey. Moses goes back up to get the rest of God's laws. That's where we are...

## Where we find them in Exodus 22

Moses has been delayed up the mountain,

### **Exodus 32:1-4 (NIV84)**

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”

<sup>2</sup> Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” <sup>3</sup> So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

<sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.” <sup>6</sup> So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

## This is where I see the parallel with us, “What Just Came Out of Me?”

The fears of Israel, the concern of being left alone without a leader, the influence of having been in Egypt, all these things caused them to do something just a while ago they said they would not do.

Pressured situations can function like a mirror, they help us to see what we might have not noticed in other times.

### **PASTOR VERNER MESSAGE: WHEN YOU ARE SQUEEZED WHAT COMES OUT OF YOU?**

All of us are being squeezed right now, our normal isn’t normal. Let me set this straight, it is human and normal to respond and feel upset at this time.

Anxious Energy – when anxious or grieving we can go from laughter, to crying to anger and back again in just a moment. Our physiological response to a situation.

While we can acknowledge that extra responsiveness, the question I want to ask is this, what is coming out of us when we are in this season of pressure and waiting.

**WHEN UNDER PRESSURE**  
**THE BEST AND WORST OF OUR CHARACTER COMES OUT.**

**The best:**

- Nova Scotia
  - Generosity (money and assistance for families)
  - Solidarity, Compassion, Concern
- Coronavirus
  - Care for neighbours
  - Sacrifice

**But other things come out too:**

- Deceit & Lies
- Addiction and unhealthy coping mechanisms (alcohol consumption)
- Domestic Violence
- Rage / Anger

**Sin**

**What do we do when what comes out of us is not good?**

Sometimes we do something that is less than helpful.

When Moses comes down from the mountain with Joshua and investigates what happened. He goes to Aaron and is told:

### **Exodus 32:22-24 (NIV84)**

<sup>22</sup> “Do not be angry, my lord,” Aaron answered. “You know how prone these people are to evil. <sup>23</sup> They said to me, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.’ <sup>24</sup> So I told them, ‘Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.’ Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!”

## Three insights from this story

### OWN IT

### **Exodus 32:20 (NIV84)**

And he [Moses] took the calf they had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

It had to be destroyed, and it went back to where it came from. It didn’t come from the furnace, it came from them. They needed to taste it, and acknowledge it was from them.

We can’t play the blame game.

- Covid-19 didn’t make you do it
- The kids didn’t make you do it
- Your spouse didn’t make you do it
- The loneliness didn’t make you do it.

You may have felt the pressure, encountered the problem, and to feel it is natural, but the response is rooted in who you are. The situation can bring out what is good in you, but it can also surface the brokenness, pride, evil and sin that we all carry as well.

When under pressure, things come out of us.

## Accept Consequences

After they drink the ground up idol, Moses leads one of the tribes, the Levites in executing 3,000 of the people (you can read about it in verses 27-29).

I find this part of the passage quite uncomfortable, and if I were honest, part of me considered glossing over it or not mentioning it.

We have to be prepared to face up to the consequences of our actions.

### ***12 Steps***

- *Step 8) Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.*
- *Step 9) Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.*

We cannot bypass the effects of the wrongs we do, and have to be willing to pay the price, to put things right.

- If you have been unjustly angry, understand if people are fearful
- If you have been dishonest, deceitful or unfaithful, be prepared if people don't trust you.

The costs of sin is real.

### **Is that all?**

This would make a decent motivational talk to say we can own our problems and be prepared to work on them, if that is where it ended. But when we come to Scripture, we not only come to learn about ourselves, but to learn about ourselves in relation to God.

## The Interesting Revelation of God

Just after this incident, the people are grieving, sorrowful for what they had done. Moses goes back up the mountain, to be with God. Moses prays to God. Moses wants to see a revelation of who God is, to know that God will go with him and the people.

### Exodus 34:6–7 (NIV84)

<sup>6</sup> And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love [*hesed*] and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”

This is what reveals the character of God

- Not war, not prosperity – this is the starting point for understanding who God is. He is faithful, loving, compassionate and forgiving
- We take this for granted in our world, but the reason we do so is because of how the message of Jesus has embodied this and influenced what we as a culture have grown to accept and value.

You need to own it, to repent and turn from it accepting the consequence, then...

### Receive God’s Grace

but then turn yourself to the hands of God, the one who wants to faithfully forgive and transform your life so you may better reflect his image and character to his world.

### 1 John 1:9 (NIV84)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

## What will you be on the other side of this crisis?

In New Brunswick, we are so thankful that we are moving to a place where some of the restrictions are looking like they may be lifted in the coming days and weeks. When they announced the lifting of some restrictions and the plan to do so on Friday, it was like we all began to breath a collective sigh of hope and relief.

But the easing of the pressures, we may allow what we've seen come out of us submerged underneath the surface again.

Let us not remain the same, hiding the same pains, brokenness and even sins that popped up when we were under pressure hide again.

Let not only own them, face them and the hurts they have done to others, but let us together confess them to Jesus, the incarnate revelation of who God is, who offers us forgiveness and promises to send his Spirit to those who trust in him, to help us grow into who God intends us to be.

Before the Jill comes back to lead us one more worship song, I will close in prayer, but I would encourage you now; if you would like prayer, we have our pastors ready to pray with you right now.

You can call or text us at 1-800-601-0981 or send an email to

[prayer@ssc.church](mailto:prayer@ssc.church)

We will have our pastors there for the next while.

### LET US PRAY...

- **We own our brokenness and sinfulness. We know it hurts us and others, we need your grace and forgiveness.**

***Song: In the Waiting***