# The Wilderness and the Tabernacle

**Sunday 2nd Service – Core Message**
**Exodus 36:8–13**

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**8** All the skilled workers among those doing the work made the tabernacle with ten curtains. They were made of finely twisted linen and blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, with cherubim skillfully worked into them.
**9** Each curtain was twenty-eight cubits long and four cubits wide. All the curtains were the same size.
**10** They joined five of the curtains together, and the other five they also joined together.
**11** Then they made loops of blue material along the edge of the end curtain in one set, and did the same on the end curtain of the other set.
**12** They made fifty loops on one curtain and fifty loops on the end curtain of the other set, so that the loops were opposite each other.
**13** They made fifty gold clasps and used them to fasten the two sets of curtains together so that the tabernacle was a single unit.

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# Introduction

Human beings must continually worship God, because Satan is constantly at work. Human spiritual sight is darkened, and because we must receive God's guidance, worship must be continual. However, under the influence of culture, worship is increasingly taken lightly.

People come slowly even to the first service. In California culture, people come slowly while enjoying themselves. For the second service, about 70% of the people may not even have their minds fully present. About 30% believe that attending the second service means they have truly kept the Lord's Day. Those of you here today are that 30%—glorious faces indeed.

In Korea, about 70% believe that attending the second service is necessary to truly keep Sunday holy. In Europe, people feel no reaction and no guilt at all even if they do not attend church. This trend keeps flowing in that direction. Perhaps it cannot be helped. In some ways, there may be no worshipers left. Even so, God's desire is different. Even in the last days, when there may be no one left, God still desires that all people on earth come before Him to worship. Therefore, our mission is to go against this cultural current.

Both first and second services must be restored. I once mentioned this during a church council meeting. After worship begins, the first service starts with praise. When people first came to our

church long ago, some said it felt fresh and good. Some said that having praise during the service was nice.

I thought, “Is that so?” But something weighed heavily on my heart. Is this time not simply waiting for latecomers? Worship should begin at the exact time, and everyone who came to worship should already be seated.

So I always think that this really needs to be changed. Still, in America’s spiritual condition, it feels like we must wait until the very end of worship. I once spoke with someone who left our church. They told me that in their church, once the time comes, the doors are locked. Even if you want to enter, you cannot. I thought that pastor was remarkable.

The point is this: what is our mindset about worship? There is no perfect person or perfect culture, but regardless, we must not simply follow American culture.

The dominant American culture is largely white culture. I do not know if white churches are the same, but most people arrive just as the sermon begins, and even then, some wander in casually. This raises the question: what kind of heart should a worshiper have before God?

Humans must continually worship. God even set apart the tribe of Levi for worship. “You shall not work—only worship. Do everything necessary for worship.” Land was divided among the other tribes.

Because Satan is always at work and spiritual eyes are darkened, we must receive God’s guidance. The tribe of Levi was specially separated to be responsible for worship. The other tribes farmed and brought their offerings—this is the concept of the tithe. God desires worship. That is how important worship is. God promised that if worship is done properly, there will be no curse.

Whenever Israel became slaves, captives, or a vassal nation, it was always during times when covenant worship disappeared. That alone answers how important worship is. The place where this took place was the tabernacle.

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# 1. The Tabernacle – Extremely Important

What is the tabernacle?

## 1) The Compass of the Wilderness

If worship is done properly at the tabernacle, God leads the way. The wilderness is a place where you do not know where to go. Water is essential, yet you do not know where it is. Worship at the tabernacle was the way to receive God’s guidance. Separating the tribe of Levi carried a powerful message: “Do nothing else—only worship. I will lead the entire people

through you." This taught both the Levites and the people what worship and the covenant blood sacrifice truly meant.

### 2) The System to Conquer the Wilderness

The tabernacle was a system to conquer the wilderness. After coming out of slavery, while still in the wilderness, God first commanded them to build the tabernacle. Instructions were given for the Ark of the Covenant and all its furnishings. After completion, the Levites were assigned to carry it. This system conquered the wilderness.

The same applies today. When worship to God becomes a system, it becomes the system that conquers one's life.

### 3) The Place Where God Is Met and His Word Is Received

Exodus 29:42 says it is the place where God speaks. God commanded morning and evening burnt offerings and said, "There I will meet you and speak with you." If God does not speak, we die spiritually.

For 400 years before Jesus came, there were no prophets. The Scriptures existed, but people studied them on their own, resulting in the Pharisees. After 400 years of discussion and debate, the result was crucifying Jesus. Why? Because there was no living word from God.

The tabernacle was the only place to meet God. Before it was built, people like Abraham and Noah built altars wherever they were. But once the tabernacle existed, there was no other way to meet God. That is why Jesus said to the Samaritan woman that the time was coming when worship would not be limited to Jerusalem, but would be in spirit and truth. Until Jesus' death, worship had to take place in the temple. The tabernacle symbolized Christ Himself.

### 4) The Secret to Solving Israel's Curse

The tabernacle was the place of covenant blood sacrifice. Today, this is the church and the worship offered there. When the Word personally enters into a person, worship looks different. One day, spiritual eyes open. May today be that day.

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## 2. Worship 100% – Church 300%

This is the word God gave us this year.

### 1) Only Covenant Worship Needs to Be Alive

Live by worship. That is the key message.

### 2) Worship Was Important Enough to Create the Tribe of Levi

When covenant worship is alive, God meets us and gives His Word. Truly hearing the Word means it enters into us. Today, anyone can be a Levite—a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). Worship in spirit and truth is now possible. May you become Levites with the covenant in your hearts.

### 3) The Secret to Conquering the World and Life

We must conquer life and save others. While listening to the Word with the covenant, it must enter into us. This applies to everyone, including me. When the Word becomes truly ours, that is the beginning.

### 4) A Spiritual System That Saves Me

Morning, daytime, and nighttime prayer must become a system. When personal worship and prayer become a system, great answers follow. May worship, prayer, and the Word become your covenant.

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## 3. Successful Worship

God repeats what is most important.

### 1) Covenant

Worship must be living worship. In the past, we received grace and wept, but there was no lasting power. We could not give answers to others. Yet knowing that Jesus is the Christ is absolutely essential.

### 2) A Sincere Heart

A sincere heart that desires to worship God. With covenant and sincerity, worship continues, and gratitude flows.

### 3) God’s Desire

God’s desire is world evangelization—the second covenant. When world evangelization enters your heart, you know you are connected with God.

### 4) Continuous Personal Worship

Morning, afternoon, and night personal worship. Confessing Christ before God alone. Daniel made this a system, and nothing in the world could shake it. He became a leader of his time.

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# 4. Conclusion

### 1) Without Forgiveness, You Cannot Save People

No one is perfect. We must forgive and never slander or criticize others. A humble heart that serves is essential.

### 2) Worship Is Life

A person who cannot worship is spiritually dead. This may sound harsh, but it is true. Prayerlessness reveals where the heart truly is.

### 3) Those Who Continue in Worship Will Inevitably Be Victorious

The answer is covenant, and the way to hold the covenant is worship and prayer. Lot knew but did not worship; Abraham continued building the altar. That is the difference in their lives.

God separated the Levites and said, “Do nothing else—only worship.” May we all become Levites. Because of us, may God bless our church.

Today, I stand as a watchman for our church. As worship continues, answers will continue. God is alive today and still speaks through His Word.

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# Prayer

God, we thank You for Your grace.
Thank You for Your precious Word.
You have told us to listen with 100% worship, 100% prayer, and 100% Word.
May the covenant Word live and work powerfully, conquer our lives, and lead us to the ends of the earth.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.