19/4/2020 Warning and Encouragement

# Pastor Jono “Warning”

In **Exodus 32** we read that the Israelites are gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai while Moses goes up the mountain to meet with God. The Israelites asked Aaron to build them a golden calf idol to worship as they began to lose focus and lose hope that Moses would return to them. Moses went up the mountain for 40 days and in the same way, Pastor Jono shared that what we do in the next 40 days are critical during this time. It can either be a time of drawing close to God or losing sight of Him; a time of building trust and intimacy with God or turning back to our old ways where we hold on to idols and addictions.

What can we do during the next 40 days to ensure that we build up our faith and enter the promised land?

1. **Go up the mountain –** Moses went up the mountain to meet with God. Don’t stay at the foot of the mountain like the Israelites did. Draw as close to God as you can.
* Make prayer a priority. Continue to establish prayer altars.
* Stay close to our leaders and continue to connect with other believers. Make use of Zoom meetings and be creative with how we can be even more connected with others even though we can’t meet physically.
1. **Re-cut the 10 commandments** – Moses went back and met with the Lord and he cut out 2 more stone tablets like the first ones that had been destroyed. This speaks of getting back into the word of God. Scripture is a powerful tool against the enemy, and it also encourages us and uplifts us when we are faced with challenges.
2. **Levites were loyal to Moses –** The Levites rallied around Moses and were ready to serve him. They had a passion for holiness and because of this, were elevated to positions where they could serve in the tabernacle. In the same way, we need to get our passion for the Lord on fire again. Just like the Levites, this is an opportunity for us to lead our families in holiness.

**Question:**

*Which of the above 3 points speaks to you the most in terms of room for improvement in your life? Share with the group something that you can execute practically and consistently in the coming week to build momentum in one of these areas.*

**Final Warning: Exodus 32:35**

A Second Plague

The Lord sent a great plague upon the Israelites because they worshipped the golden calf. The Israelites had just escaped all the plagues in Egypt and yet here at the foot of the mountain, they were faced with a second plague because of their sin. We cannot allow ourselves to be complacent and need to continue to be diligent in building momentum. Don’t stay at the foot of the mountain and fall into idolatry. Instead, go up the mountain and use this opportunity to worship God and draw close to Him.

# Pastor Mike and Jeannie Knott “Encouragement”

**Pastor Jeannie Knott (Proverbs 31)**

V18: Lamp that does not go out – keep loving Jesus despite external circumstances

V25: Laugh at the days to come – use this time to pray big prayers and believe for big things.

 **Share with the group:**

*Pray big prayers! Think about how you can change up the way that you pray – maybe its declaring the promises of God loudly in your house or praying with a partner to elevate your faith levels. For parents, it could be having a consistent family prayer time. Share ideas with the group and choose a couple to implement over the next week.*

**Pastor Mike Knott “Pause for a Purpose”**

Pastor Mike reminded ICC of 3 things:

1. That we are a powerful prayer and prophetic church.
2. We are generous in our giving to the community and the nations
3. We have a heart for the people who have come into this nation.

We may feel like our lives are on hold but we can still use this time purposefully. Psalm 133 speaks of the anointing oil that flows down from the head. In the same way, this is a time where God’s anointing will flow and lead us into a season of being more purposeful and certain of our direction and role within the church. He encouraged each household to take ownership of the things that are important to our church as this will lead to a greater unity and a season of reaping and multiplication.

**Question:**

*Which of the above 3 areas do you have a particular passion for? Is there something specific that you can contribute or work on during this time of pausing?*