

9. Torn from the top

Matthew 27:51 says the veil was torn from top to bottom — from heaven downward, not by human hands reaching up. Why does the direction of the tear matter? What does it tell us about who initiates our access to God?

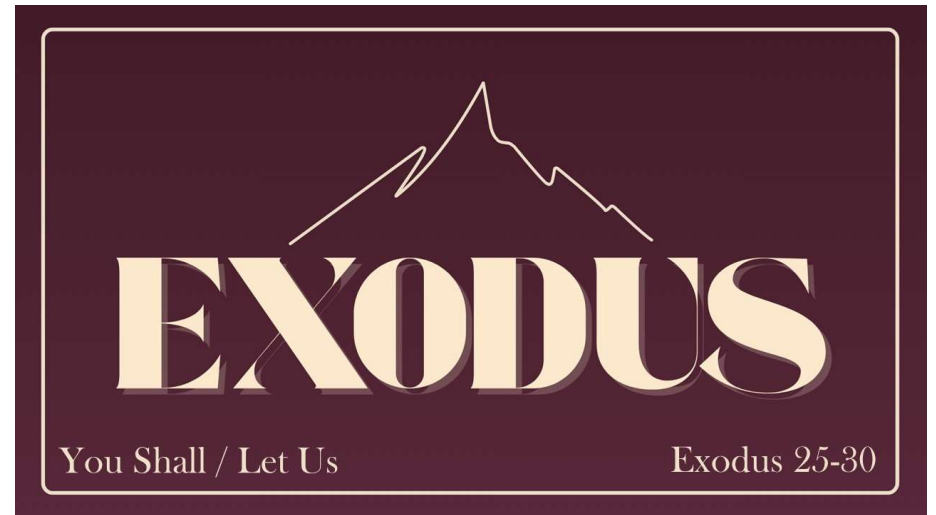
10. From “you shall” to “let us”

The sermon moves from 200 commands of “you shall” to Hebrews’ threefold invitation: “let us draw near... let us hold fast... let us consider one another.” Practically, what would it look like this week to respond with “let us” rather than the old pressure of “I must”?

Notes:

CALVARY
— O X N A R D —

Sermon Discussion for



Sunday, August 2, 2026

Discussion Questions:

1. Opening the text

Exodus 25–30 reads “like a builder’s spec sheet” and tempts readers to skim. Why do you think God chose to reveal Christ through such detailed, physical instructions rather than through direct explanation? What does that say about how God often works?

2. 200 times, “you shall”

The phrase “you shall” appears roughly 200 times in these chapters. What’s the difference between obeying because you understand the purpose versus obeying simply because it’s commanded? Where does that tension show up in your own walk with God?

3. Glory under humility

The curtains and coverings (Exo 26:1–14) hid glory under a plain, weatherproof exterior — echoing Isaiah 53:2, “no beauty that we should desire Him.” Where do you find it easy to miss the glory in someone because of an unimpressive exterior?

4. Boards joined together

The acacia boards overlaid with gold pictured Christ’s incorruptible humanity joined to His deity — and no single board was the tabernacle; it took all of them joined together. How does 1 Peter 2:5’s image of “living stones” challenge an individualistic view of the Christian life?

5. The veil that guarded

The veil guarded the Most Holy Place, woven with the same cherubim who guarded Eden’s entrance after the fall. Before the cross, what did that barrier communicate about the seriousness of sin and the holiness of God? Do we still feel that weight today?

6. Only one way in

The bronze altar was the only way into the courtyard — no worshiper could bypass it. Jesus said, “No one comes to the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). Why is that kind of exclusivity so hard for people to accept, even for believers?

7. Our great High Priest

Aaron carried the names of Israel’s tribes over his heart into God’s presence but had to keep re-entering year after year. How does knowing Christ our High Priest entered “once, permanently” (Heb 9:12) change how you approach God in prayer?

8. Ear, thumb, and toe

The consecration of the priests applied blood to ear, thumb, and toe — hearing, doing, and walking, all set apart to God. Paul echoes this in Romans 12:1, urging us to be “a living sacrifice.” What’s one ordinary area of your life this challenges you to surrender?