

## RESET MY HEART - PART 2

Scripture used: [Exodus 33:1-3](#) and [33:15-17](#) (NIV)

### OVERVIEW

In this fourth sermon in the RESET series, Pastor Tilden demonstrated how the concept of personal and collective reset is absolutely core to scripture, in the Old Testament and New Testament. And repentance - a much-misunderstood concept - is the key to resetting our hearts. Exodus is full of momentous and spectacular happenings, yet the biggest lesson here is God's assembly of a new community and the way that God brings them into a new relationship with Him. In the way that God interacts with Moses, God teaches Moses and the Israelite people how to enter into deeper, more intimate relationship with Him, and the most important lesson the Israelites learn is how to repent, that is, how to realign with God to make seeking God's Presence their highest priority.

### KEY POINTS

- 1) Relationship with God develops over time and experience. In [Exodus 19:3-6](#), God offers His covenant (relationship), and asks for obedience. God won't let Moses and the Israelites get stuck in a shallow, superficial relationship with Him. Unlike a high school crush, where we're excited and giddy one minute and indifferent the next, the relationship with God is meant to be deep, durable, and meaningful. The Hebrews know that God is powerful and can do dramatic things for them, but God wants to teach them that His Presence is the most important gift.
- 2) The Hebrews give up on God too quickly. When they experience the absence of God in the wilderness, they doubt and start worshiping fake idols such as the golden calf ([Exodus 32:1](#)). They are quick to turn away from God's teachings ([32:8-10](#)). God was rightfully outraged at being replaced by the pagan statue, but because He was committed to deeper relationship, He instead uses this "teaching moment" to test and shape His people, starting with Moses. His goal was to nudge them into a deeper, more trusting, more loyal relationship with Him.
- 3) Our Scripture characterizes the Hebrews as "stiff-necked." Dr. Adam Fields, a part of NBCC and a chiropractor, came on stage to talk about his profession, how we are myopically glued to our devices, and our bodies start conforming to them. We become "stiff-necked" and out of alignment with how our bodies were meant to be. Just as the cure for a stiff neck is proper physical alignment, the cure of a spiritual stiff neck is being in alignment with God. God asks His people to realign to making their highest priority seeking God's Presence. This realignment is what repentance practically looks like.
- 4) Repentance is expressed through choices and priorities. It's not about me. It's about something bigger, and a faithfulness to God's reputation and expectations. ([Exodus 33:1-3](#)). We obsess about our "dream come true" (ideal college, job, mate, family) or relief from grief & illness. But we get spiritual stiff-necks when anything in life takes a higher priority than God. We should especially be careful not to confuse success or things going well with God's Presence. God can be absent in the midst of great success, He can also be present in the midst of great suffering. If we are wise, we will seek first God's love and Presence no matter what our circumstances.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Discern your heart. Right now, what are the things you are putting first in your life? What gets the lion's share of your time, talent, and resources? Do you want to make seeking God your highest priority? If so, what would it look like?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - What do you usually think about when you hear the word, "repentance." Does it have positive or negative associations for you? Does it change your understanding to think about repentance as a process of realigning your life to God's priorities and to seek first His Presence?
- 3) **DO** - Use 5-10 minutes every day to reflect and pray with a posture of repentance. Do the following: 1) Invite God's Presence and perspective; 2) Think about the past day and consider when you were in alignment and out of alignment with God; 3) Declare to God that your first priority is seeking God's Presence today (the next 24 hours); 4) Ask God for help in living out your desire for God.