

Sermon Starter – Jesus Lifted Up

Covenant between God and Moses

Numbers 21:4-9, Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-21, John 3:14-21, Ephesians 2:1-10

Between

Moses mediates between God and people (Numbers 21:4-9)

Sin/darkness between God and people (Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21)

Jesus lifted up between God and world (John 3:14-21; Ephesians 2:1-10)

God commands Moses to make a serpent to save the people from the serpents that are killing them. The thing that is killing them becomes their source of salvation. How might God also use the very things in our lives that are killing us to bring us into new life? God does not respond to the people's prayer by taking the serpents away. Rather, God brings healing when they confront their sin, look upon the source of their wounds raised up, and face their own darkness. When has God answered our prayers and brought about new life, but perhaps not in the way we had imagined?

There are times when we may feel more comfortable dwelling in the dark for fear of what will be exposed in the light. It takes courage and vulnerability to bring our dark places to light. While painful, confronting the darkness leads us to the healing light. This is the invitation to healing and transformation. When has facing the source of our wounds brought about healing? What parts of ourselves or our experience are being invited out of the darkness and into the light?

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