

Meeting with the God Who Comes to Us

Exodus 19:1-25

Enjoying God's blessing requires _____ . (1-9a)

Entering God's company requires _____ . (9b-15)

Accessing God's presence requires _____ . (16-25)

Exodus 19

¹ On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ² They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, ³ while Moses went up to God. The LORD **called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'** These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

⁷ So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ⁸ **All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do."** And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD. ⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, **"Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever."**

When Moses told the words of the people to the LORD, ¹⁰ the LORD **said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments ¹¹ and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹² And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. ¹³ No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.'** When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain."¹⁴ So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people; and they washed their garments. ¹⁵ And he **said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman."**

¹⁶ On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. ¹⁷ Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. ¹⁹ And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. ²⁰ The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

²¹ And the LORD **said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to the LORD to look and many of them perish. ²² Also let the priests who come near to the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them."** ²³ And Moses said to the LORD, **"The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us, saying, 'Set limits around the mountain and consecrate it.'"** ²⁴ And the LORD **said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, lest he break out against them."** ²⁵ So Moses went down to the people and told them.
(ESV)

EXODUS

PURCHASED BY GOD FOR GOD

Meeting with the God Who Comes to Us

August 9, 2020

Open: What environments are most conducive to you meeting with God?

Read & Discuss: Exodus 19:1-25

1. How would you put God's offer to the Israelites in verses 4-6 in your own words? In what ways is God's new identity for the Israelites similar to the true identity of a follower of Jesus today? (See *1 Peter 2:9*.) How does this identity run contrary to how we're inclined to think of ourselves?
2. What should the Israelites have learned about God that would have encouraged them to trust God's promises and to obey God's commands (vv. 7-8)? What helps you to trust God and obey His commands?
3. What preparations did the people have to make in order to prepare for God's appearance (vv. 10-15)? What was God communicating about Himself through these requirements? Is it necessary to prepare ourselves to meet with God? Why or why not? If yes, what should we do?
4. How and why did the people react to the signs of God's presence on Mt. Sinai? What emotional response do you tend to have at the thought of meeting God? What sort of response do you think we should have and why?
5. Try to imagine what it might have been like to be Moses through all of this. How do you think he might have felt? How would you summarize his responsibilities? What might He have learned about God that the rest of the Israelites did not?
6. Moses serves as a mediator between God and His people. In what sense is Jesus our mediator today? (See *1 Timothy 2:5-6*.) How should the fact that we need a mediator impact how we view our relationship with God?

Apply: In light of what we see in this passage, how can you better prepare yourself to meet with God this week—both when you meet with Him on your own, and when you meet with Him together with your church family, whether in person or virtually?

Pray: Ask God to help us all have a proper sense of awe before our holy God.

Exodus 19

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