



LOVING GOD'S PRESENCE MORE THAN HIS PRESENTS

EXODUS 33 | APRIL 23 & 24, 2016

1. God was very clear in his first two commandments (Exodus 20:1-6) and again in Exodus 20:22-23 (to the extent that they were hearing God's instruction to Moses), that he was to be first and that there were to be no idols.

What is it in Exodus 32 that became so tempting to the people that they want to make an idol? Why is God so clear about idols? Besides general disobedience, what is the danger that idols present?

2. When God planned destruction for his people (Exodus 32:9-10) – what was the logic Moses prayed and pleaded with (Exodus 32:11-13)? How did God respond? What does this show you about the power of prayer with regard to God?

What do you think of Aaron's response in Exodus 32:22ff? Does it remind you at all of Eve's response in Genesis 3? In both cases (but especially in Exodus 32), what is the consequence of sin even in the face of God's relenting mercy? What does that reveal about sin?

3. There is a great deal in Exodus 33 and in the sermon that focus on God's presence. What is the significance of God's presence? What about the tent of meeting? What did people notice about Moses after he met with God?

Consider some things in combination: Exodus 33:19-23, Exodus 34:29-35 (especially v. 33), Matthew 27:51 and 2 Corinthians 3:18. What does this suggest about God's presence and its effect on us? What do we see being different then in Hebrews 4:14-16?

4. The Ten Commandments were given in Exodus and engraved by God (Exodus 32:16) and again later in Exodus 34. What is the significance of these rules?

Jeremiah 31:32-34, Hebrews 8:10, Hebrews 8:16 present a new relationship with God. In what ways has God brought about a new covenant and a new law?

5. How does all of this lead us back to Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Consider John 1:14 and John 14:15ff.

6. What are your reflections on the sermon and these thoughts in relation to presence, access, the law and transformation in Christlikeness?