

The Nearness of God

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, March 6, 2022; Exodus 19:1-25; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme – God is a God who saves and sanctifies. It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Therefore, we are in desperate need of a Mediator, Jesus, who perfectly satisfies God's righteous demands so that the nearness of God is our eternal good!

I. God's Desire – Read Exodus 19:1-8

- A. Read Exodus 3:10-12. How has God's promise to Moses at the burning bush been fulfilled from Exodus 4:1-18:27? What markers can you highlight along the way to Mount Sinai?
- B. What 3 things does God highlight in Exodus 19:4-6 and how do you interpret them?
- C. As you compare Exodus 19:4-6 with 1 Peter 2:9-10, how does Peter demonstrate that all these glorious promises of a people who are God's treasured possession, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation, find their ultimate fulfillment in the church?

II. God's Preparation – Read Exodus 19:9-15

- A. Moses continues to run up and down the mountain, talking to God and the people. How do these constant interactions demonstrate that he's the mediator between God and man?
- B. In what ways are the Israelites instructed to prepare for God's presence to reside among His people? What is the significance and ultimate meaning of these particular instructions?
- C. God declares in v.12 that whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. That seems like a cruel and unusual punishment for such a minor crime. How would you explain that?

III. God's Presence – Read Exodus 19:16-25

- A. What observations do you make about the mountain when God's presence descends on it? What are all the images given in this passage that would instill fear in a person?
- B. Read Hebrews 9:27, 10:31, and 12:18-29. How does the picture in Exodus help us understand why it's a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God, who is a consuming fire?
- C. How exactly does Jesus become the mediator of a new covenant? What was the old covenant? How did Jesus fulfill that covenant? How can the nearness of God actually be our good?
- D. How are we to balance boldness before God's throne and a proper fear of Him? God calls His people to pursue godliness, but why is it essential that we be holy? And how should Jesus being our mediator motivate us to put sin to death and cause us to walk in righteousness?