

SERMON OUTLINE

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| SERMON TITLE: | How to Practice the Presence of God |
| SERMON REFERENCE: | Exodus 33:1-4 |
| LWF SERMON NUMBER: | #1972 |

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) We are to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth, but worship is not in a particular locale.
 - i) Worship is anywhere that we breathe the name of Jesus.
 - (1) We are temples of God, and the Lord lives and dwells in us.
 - ii) But many Christians are not conscious of the presence of God in their lives.
 - (1) God is not a bright, living reality in their lives.
- b) Our Scripture today is from the Old Testament.
 - i) Don't think that the Old Testament doesn't apply to us today.
 - ii) The Bible clearly states concerning the Old Testament saints that the things they experienced happened that they might be examples to us.
- c) Moses had an encounter with God.
 - i) The presence of God was so real in Moses' life that his face literally shone to the degree that he had to wear a veil over his face in public.
 - (1) He would remove the veil when he would go to speak face to face with the Lord.
 - ii) The people knew that when Moses spoke that he had a message from God because of his shining face.
- d) The sad thing is that Moses lost the glow.
 - i) The glow faded, but Moses continued to wear the veil so that the people would not know that the glory of God was no longer there.
 - (1) How many of us wear a veil today, not to veil the glory, but to hide the fact that the glory is not there?
 - (a) There perhaps was a time when God was very real to us, but now we're going through the motions.
- e) The message today will give us some steps to make God real in our lives and to get the glow back.

2) THERE MUST BE DETERMINATION (EXODUS 33:1-4)

- a) There must be a determination that we will have God in our life.
 - i) Exodus 33:1-4
 - (1) God told Moses that He would keep His promise and give them the land.
 - (2) God said that He would give them victory, success and the land, but that He would not go with them; they would not have His presence.
 - (3) The people mourned because without God they knew:
 - (a) What good is the land with the Lord?
 - (b) What good is the victory without the Victor?
 - (c) What good are the gifts without the Giver?
 - ii) The people determined that they would not settle for an angel.
- b) Exodus 33:14-15
 - i) Moses said that he wasn't going without the Lord.
 - ii) Many of us have settled for what the Lord offered Moses.

- (1) God has promised eternal life; we have eternal life.
 - (2) God has promised Heaven; we have Heaven.
 - (3) God has promised to see us through; we thank Him for the angel.
 - (4) We have settled for all of this without the conscious presence of God.
 - (a) Do we really want what God gives without having God Himself?
 - (i) We should not be satisfied with only having His gifts; we should want to know the Lord intimately.
 - c) We must determine that we want the conscious presence of God in our lives and in our churches.
- 3) THERE MUST BE PREPARATION (EXODUS 34:1-2)
- a) Moses told the Lord that they were not going to take second best.
 - i) They didn't want an angel; they wanted God.
 - b) Exodus 34:1-2
 - i) God had already given Moses the Ten Commandments, but Moses broke the two tablets of stone in anger when he saw the people dancing around a golden calf.
 - c) If we expect the presence of God, then we need to do what God told Moses to do.
 - i) "Be ready in the morning."
 - (1) Exodus 34:2
 - (2) Don't carelessly, casually and haphazardly seek the presence of God.
 - (3) God does business with those who mean business.
 - (4) We should prepare our hearts to seek the Lord.
 - (a) 2 Chronicles 12:14
 - (i) Rehoboam did not have the presence of God.
 - (ii) It doesn't say that he did evil because he didn't seek the Lord, but that he did evil because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord.
 - (b) 2 Chronicles 19:3
 - (i) God places an emphasis on preparation.
 - d) We need each day to get away, close the door, and spend time with God in His Word.
 - i) Put away all of the distractions.
 - ii) Have a singular purpose to prepare your heart to seek God.
 - e) Don't be satisfied with taking God's blessings without Him.
- 4) THERE MUST BE ISOLATION (EXODUS 34:3)
- a) Moses was the pastor of three million backslidden people.
 - i) They were complaining.
 - ii) They were criticizing him.
 - b) Exodus 34:3
 - i) God told Moses to leave the people and get alone with Him.

- (1) Later on, Moses would intercede for the same people from which he was getting away.
- ii) The best time we can spend for our children and loved ones is not necessarily when we're with them, but when we're alone with God talking to Him about our children and loved ones and those problems for which we need to isolate and get alone with God.
- iii) Pastors need to get alone with God.
 - (1) The man of God who is always available isn't worth a whole lot when he is available.
- c) There are times when we need to be alone with God.
 - i) Jesus taught us to be alone with God.
 - (1) Matthew 6:6
 - (a) A closet in this passage refers to a closed place, a place where we shut the door and open the windows of Heaven; to get alone with God.
 - d) When we study the history of people in the Bible who were blessed and were also a blessing, they are the ones who met God in a place of isolation.
 - i) Abraham was alone when God spoke to him and gave him that great covenant.
 - ii) Daniel was alone when God spoke to him and gave him a prophecy.
 - iii) Paul was alone when God gave him the epistles and the book of Romans.
 - iv) Peter was alone on a rooftop when he had a vision, and God spoke to him about Cornelius and opening the door to the Gentiles.
 - v) John was alone on the Isle of Patmos when God gave him the book of the Revelation.
 - vi) Moses was alone in the wilderness when God gave him the Ten Commandments.
 - vii) The Lord Jesus, in the middle of a busy and fruitful ministry where He was performing miracles, withdrew Himself to the wilderness to pray.
- 5) THERE MUST BE EXPECTATION (EXODUS 34:4-7)
 - a) Exodus 34:4-7
 - i) Moses took two tables of stone; he expected God to give him something to put on them.
 - ii) Moses went up to the mount to find out something from God, and he got a revelation.
 - (1) When we have our quiet times, do we expect God to give us something?
 - (2) When we open the Word of God, do we expect to learn?
 - b) When we go to God and expect Him to give us something, we need to be ready to write it down.
 - i) The weakest ink is better than the best memory.
 - ii) Writing it down helps us to think clearly, and it writes it not only upon the paper but also upon our hearts.

- iii) Someone once said that if you go to a prayer meeting to pray for rain, you ought to bring an umbrella.
 - (1) When we have a quiet time, we ought to have a notebook.
 - c) What do we do with a passage of Scripture?
 - i) Read it through.
 - ii) Think it out.
 - (1) Bring your mind to it.
 - (2) We're to love the Lord our God with all our mind.
 - (a) Matthew 22:37
 - (3) Romans 12:1-2
 - (a) Why would the Lord renew our mind if He didn't expect us to use it?
 - iii) Pray it in.
 - (1) Talk to God about it.
 - (2) One of the best ways to learn the Scriptures is to pray the Scriptures.
 - iv) Write it down.
 - (1) Write down the thoughts that God gives you.
 - v) Live it out.
 - (1) This is the way it really becomes real to us.
 - (2) The promises and truths in the Bible are not museum pieces just to hang on the wall; they're checks to carry to the bank.
 - (3) Take these promises of God, these precepts, and these warnings, and put them in your life.
 - vi) Pass it on.
 - (1) When we see people day by day, we ought to have something from the Word to share with them.
 - (2) When we give it away, it comes back to us.
 - (a) That's the secret of remembering anything.
 - d) Have the expectation that God is going to speak to you.
- 6) THERE MUST BE ADORATION (EXODUS 34:8)
 - a) God spoke to Moses, and He gave Moses one of the most incredible, concise revelations of His nature and character.
 - b) Exodus 34:8
 - i) On the basis of truth, Moses worships.
 - (1) Real worship is intelligent worship based on the revealed Word of God.
 - c) James 1:21
 - i) We're to receive the Word with meekness.
 - ii) We're to humble ourselves and welcome the Word of God.
 - d) Matthew 11:25
 - i) The reason many of us don't receive more from the Bible than we do is because we come to the Bible as a know-it-all.
 - e) We must receive the truth with a humble heart as we adore and worship the Lord.

- 7) THERE MUST BE INTERCESSION (EXODUS 34:9)
- a) Now, Moses is ready to pray for others.
 - i) Exodus 34:9
 - ii) This is called intercession.
 - b) Moses' intercession is based on revelation and adoration.
 - i) He comes with expectation.
 - ii) He gets a revelation.
 - iii) He gives adoration.
 - iv) He then gives an intercession.
 - (1) He begins to pray for other people.
 - c) Many times when we pray for other people, we don't know how to pray because we don't pray on the basis of truth.
 - i) Exodus 34:6-7
 - (1) Moses understood God's nature.
 - d) For whom do we intercede?
 - i) If we try to intercede for everybody, then we'll end up interceding for nobody.
 - (1) It will become such an arduous task that we'll become frustrated.
 - ii) If we're walking in the Spirit, then God will give us an assignment in prayer.
 - (1) God will speak to us.
 - iii) Moses asked the Lord to forgive the children of Israel.
 - (1) He didn't pray for all the people on Earth.
 - (2) He prayed for those who were his responsibility.
 - (a) Our children are our responsibility.
 - iv) Luke 11:5-13
 - (1) In this parable, the Lord is speaking about intercession.
 - (2) The meaning of this parable is not about bread but truth.
 - (a) The man needed truth for his friend; he needed the Holy Spirit.
 - (i) When we are in the Spirit, God will give us assignments to pray for.
 - e) These people were Moses' people, and he has that time where he intercedes for them.
- 8) THERE MUST BE OBSERVATION (EXODUS 34:10-11)
- a) Exodus 34:10-11
 - i) "A terrible thing" in verse ten means that it will be terrifying to those around them when they see the mighty hand God has for the children of Israel and His power over them.
 - ii) The word "observe" in this passage doesn't mean "to look;" it means "to obey."

- b) When God speaks to us and we have this determination, preparation, isolation, expectation, adoration and intercession, if we then do not begin to live what God shows us, then none of the rest of it works.
 - i) We must obey.
 - ii) We cannot claim the promises without obeying the commandments.
 - c) John 14:21
 - i) If we are not obeying the commandments of Jesus, then we don't love Jesus.
 - ii) The reason why God is not real to many of us is because we don't love Him.
 - iii) If we love the Lord, then we'll keep His commandments, and He will manifest Himself to us; He will be real to us.
 - d) If Jesus Christ is not real to you, then get in His Word and keep His Word.
- 9) THERE MUST BE TRANSFORMATION (EXODUS 34:29-35)
- a) Moses spent so much time with the Lord face to face that Moses' face began to shine as a reflection of the Shekinah glory of God.
 - i) Exodus 24:29-35
 - ii) When we spend enough time in the presence of God, the presence of God gets into us.
 - iii) As Moses beheld the glory of the Lord, the glory of the Lord infused itself into Moses, and Moses was transformed.
 - b) 2 Corinthians 3:7-8
 - i) "The ministration of death" refers to the fact that the Ten Commandments really brought death if we didn't keep them.
 - ii) The glory on Moses' countenance ultimately faded.
 - iii) The Apostle Paul is saying in this passage that if Moses' face shone after he went on Mount Sinai to get the Ten Commandments (that could only minister death), then what about those of us who now have the ministration of the Spirit? Shall that not be more glorious?
 - c) 2 Corinthians 3:17-18
 - d) John 4:23
 - e) Why does God want us to worship Him?
 - i) All of our praise doesn't make Him more glorious.
 - (1) His glory doesn't depend upon us.
 - ii) He wants us to worship Him because of what worship does for us.
 - (1) When we behold Him, we're changed into the same image, from glory to glory.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - iii) The way to be like Him is to see Him, to worship Him and to praise Him.
 - (1) Then, we're changed.
 - f) We become like what we spend time with.
 - i) When we spend time with God, we can look into the mirror of God's Word and see ourselves in that mirror.

- g) If Moses changed when he spent time going up on Mount Sinai to get the Ten Commandments, how much more will we be changed as we look into the face of our Lord through His Word?

10) CONCLUSION

- a) If you're a Christian, then ask the Lord to help you learn how to practice His presence.
 - i) Never be satisfied with eternal life, eternal security, the care of angels, homes, clothes, friends, or anything else without the conscious presence of the Lord in your life.
- b) If you don't have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, you can today.
- c) Pray to Him and ask Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16