

G:love 15

Focused Living Ministries

Two men were hunting when they noticed a thick cloud of smoke and heard the crackling of a raging brush-fire. The wind was driving the fire faster than they could run. They quickly lit a fire around them leaving a large circle of scorched ground. Standing in the middle of the blackened earth they covered their mouths with damp t-shirts, pulled their coats over their heads, bowed low to the ground and waited. The roaring brush fire swept around them but never touched them as it could not ignite the already burned earth. The Law of God is like a roaring brush fire ignited by the intense holiness of His justice that justly burns all sin in its path. But if by faith we stand at the Cross where His wrath burned hottest for sin against His Law we will not die. Wise men huddle together at the Cross to escape the burning justice of God and to enjoy His grace. **What is your real attitude toward the holiness of God? Why?**



(Exodus 19:1-25) Three months after escaping Egypt God leads His people to Mt. Sinai. There He taught them even more about His majesty and character so their faith might be strengthened and love for Him deepened before moving on to the Promised Land. **How was God helping Moses and the people to respond rightly as a glove to the movement of His hand in their lives?**

(Exodus 19:3-6; 20:2) What was God first trying to teach His people about His character (I.e. love, grace, power, wisdom, sovereignty, etc)? God first called His people through Abraham (Gen 12:1-3) and 750 years later He is just now giving them the 10 commandments! **Why does God always start with grace before introducing the Law? Where do you see the Gospel in this passage?**

(John 14:15, 21, 23, 24, 15:10) What did Jesus repeat 5X before going to the cross? Why is this fundamental to obeying the 10 commandments with the right motivation? Like a son obeying his father in **RESPONSE** to his love not to **EARN** his love, God calls us to a **LOVE MOTIVATED OBEDIENCE**. He is saying, *“Think of all the ways that I have loved you. Now, live for Me today motivated by that love so that the character of My Son is reflected through your life!”* **Are you obeying to earn His love or in response to His love?**

(Ex 19:9, 16-19; Deut 4:24, 33, 5:24, 25; 9:3, 10; Jer 23:29; Heb 12:29; Rom 4:15) What do these verses teach about the consuming power of God’s Word/Law? Why did God use fire, smoke, earthquakes, thunder and lightning to illustrate the character of His Word? Was He trying to scare the hell out of us, put on a big show, having an ego trip meltdown or was there something more? Hint: What was God about to teach them for the first time in Chapter 20?



(Ex 19:9-22; Eccl 5:1-2; 1Pet 1:17) Why is it hard for men to honor both the _____ (love, mercy, grace, forgiveness) as well as the _____ (justice, wrath, holiness, purity, power, discipline, majesty) of God? We try to ‘defang’ the Lion of Judah (Rev 5:5) by emphasizing His PURR and neglecting His ROAR! So we approach our God flippantly, casually and carelessly as the ‘big man upstairs,’ ‘pal,’ or ‘big buddy.’

If you emphasize His **PURR** correct your heart by applying the truths of **Isaiah 6:1-9**. If you overemphasize His ROAR correct your heart by applying **Psalms 103**. According to **Hebrews 12:4-29** which aspect of God’s character (PURR/ROAR) did Moses and the people need to bring back into right balance?

(Deut 6:1-9; 8:1-6; 10:12-13; Prov 9:10; 10:27; Isaiah 66:1-2) Why is a healthy fear of the Lord (respect, reverence, awe) absolutely vital in growing your relationship with God? What happens when you no longer fear the Lord? **(Deut 30:15-20)** Astronauts!

“There is no place for a sleepy, careless attitude in communing with the living God” (Swindoll). God gives 4 key steps in Exodus 19 to prepare our hearts to meet with Him in order to deepen our relationship.

1. Come with love-motivated hearts of _____ (3-6)
2. Come with a willingness to _____ intently. (9)
3. Come with hearts and hands that are _____ (10-15)
4. Come with a reverent respect for God’s _____ (16-23)

TAG TEAMS Of the four steps in preparing to meet with God where do you need to grow most? Why?

ASSIGNMENT 1. Prepare your heart with these steps before you meet with God each day. 2. Write a “motivation list” of His faithfulness.