

Series: All Out (Worship from the Book of Exodus)

Date: April 20, 2016

Text: Exodus 19

Title: Worship with Emotion

Introduction

Camping out in Gatlinburg, TN while running into wild bear and boar.

Series

We are going through our All Out Series

God has saved His people from slavery, brought them into the desert, and now they are camping out at a Mountain.

We are learning how to worship God from this series.

Tonight is all about worship with emotion.

Bible

Exodus 19

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.

After about 7 weeks of wandering through the wilderness, Israel finally makes it to Mount Sinai.

God saved them just 7 weeks ago. How long has it been since you've been saved? How's your worship since you've been saved? Why is it that newly saved people tend to worship God more emotionally than people who have been saved a long time? We should be growing in our worship!

Exodus 19:2 They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain,

There are times in our lives that we need to just camp out with God. To camp brings words to mind like adventurous, back to the basics, relational, refreshing, and memorable.

We need to slow down and camp out with God in the mornings. We need to take times to go outside, get in God's creation, and camp out in His Word.

We need to stop, unplug, and get alone with God.

We need to camp out at church and listen.

When we camp out with God, we come closer to God.

Exodus 19:3 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:

Moses was the dude that God chose to speak to for the people. Moses was the dude who got to go up the mountain to hear from God. Moses was the dude who got to tell the people of God what God said. Who wouldn't want to be Moses? Everyone wants that special position. Everyone wants to be chosen of God. You will learn tonight that we all get to be like Moses. God has chosen you!

Exodus 19:4 You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

God is talking here about His love for His people. God powerfully protects His people like an Eagle. We are moving to a new neighborhood in 2 weeks. We have a huge problem, there are two eagles in that neighborhood, and we have a 5 pound Yorkie, Max. I'm afraid for Max. I don't want to see Max fly away in the talons of an eagle. We can't just let Max outside because of this eagle. God is saying that like an eagle, he powerfully protects His people by fighting their enemies and rescuing them.

Exodus 19:5 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; 6and 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.”

God is calling you out for who you are. If you have placed your faith in Jesus’ death for your sin, His resurrection for your eternal life, and have called on Him to become the Lord of your life, then He has a new label for you. God tells you here who you are. Who are you? What label do you live with? God labels you here as His treasured possession. He treasures us. We are His own personal possession. He is our God and we are His people. If you have given your life to Jesus, then God is on your side. He’s not against you. These labels don’t change! We are a kingdom of priests to Him.

Priests are who speak to God for people, and speak to people for God.

God has not only given us a label, he’s also given us a life.

We get to worship God has His treasured possession and priests!

Exodus 19:7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. 8All 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. 9And 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.”

All the people of God said “All that the Lord has spoken, we will do.” How can that not be our heart? God has saved us. He has defeated our enemies. He has lifted us up and drawn us close like an eagle. He has labeled us His treasured position and has given us the life as a priest like Moses. We are the chosen ones. We are the loved ones. Let’s stand together and worship our God tonight, and I’ll be back.

Worship Set

2 songs

Bible

Exodus 19

Exodus 19:10 the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments 11and 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.

God starts to change the conversation. Before He was telling them how much He loves them, but now He is revealing His glory to them. We don't just worship God for how much He loves us, but we also worship Him for who He truly is.

The reason that God told Moses to have the people consecrate themselves is because He is totally holy. There is no sin in God whatsoever. He doesn't think sinful thoughts, He doesn't say sinful things, and He doesn't do sinful actions. Everything that God thinks, says, and does is absolutely holy.

Its kind of like going on a date. If you really like someone, and you want to spend time with them on a date, you are going to get cleaned up for it.

When we give our lives to Jesus, we aren't dating Him, but we are married to Him.

We are constantly consecrating ourselves because we're always in contact with Him.

We consecrate ourselves through confession.

We consecrate ourselves through repentance.

We consecrate ourselves through prayer.

We consecrate ourselves through obedience.

12And 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. 13No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.'

Now that God has warmed us up with labeling us, showing us the life He has for us, and calling us to consecration, he's starting to turn up the heat. God says to not even come close to the mountain where He is because if you touch it or even come up to the edge, you will die! God is showing us His unapproachableness.

This is crazy to think about. We cannot lose this view of God. God is absolutely unapproachable. We cannot get to God. We cannot see God. We can't even come close to God. This is because of God's holiness. God is so holy, so majestic, so glorious, and so set-apart from us that we don't have the right or the ability to come in contact with Him.

I thought God loved me? I thought I was His treasured possession? I thought I was His priest? Let me explain. Read on.

When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain." 14So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people; and they washed their garments. 15And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman."

God told Moses that he and the people would hear what sounded like a loud blast of a trumpet, and that would be their sign that they could come up to the mountain to worship and hear from him. Moses went down and told all the people about what God had said. God finished out with "do not even go near a woman." God is calling them to be sexually pure. He's saying one of the quickest, easiest, and most dangerous ways to un-purify yourself is through sexual sin. Everyone is guilty of sexual sin in some way. God saying, don't even go near it. Our worship of God is at stake!

Honestly, I don't think that Moses is going down the mountain and thinking to himself "Who does God think He is? Seriously, we can't touch your mountain or go near it? Seriously, we can only come when we hear a trumpet?" Instead, I think Moses is saying, God is so good to even allow us to come into His presence!

16On 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.

God is using very tangible ways to show people His unapproachable glory. Can you imagine the fear this would strike into people? This is like tornado weather. Some have even said its similar to a volatile volcano. Everyone was absolutely terrified to the point that they were physically trembling. God is showing them that they must not take His presence lightly.

17Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. 18Now 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. 19And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. 20The 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.

Moses spoke to God, and God asked Him to come back up. What is God doing? God is showing His people their need for a **MEDIATOR**.

21And 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. 22Also let the priests who come near to the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them." 23And 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.'" 24And 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." 25So Moses went down to the people and told them.

Look at Hebrews 12 with me, and we'll be done.

18For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest 19and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. 20For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." 21Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."

God is showing us what its like to come into His holy presence without having a Mediator, without being saved Jesus. Do not take God lightly.

22But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Through Jesus, we have come to a far better mountain! These verses mean that when we come together to worship God, we are literally joining all of those gathered around Mount Zion in the heavenly city of Jerusalem. If we could see that heavenly city now, He says that there are innumerable angels, all of the saved, God Himself, and Jesus Himself as our Mediator.

25See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. 26At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." 27This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. 28Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, 29for our God is a consuming fire.

Just as God shook the earth and terrified the people to trembling before, God is saying that He will shake both the earth and the heavens. God is saying that He will remove all that is not His.

Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot and will not be shaken. We are secure, we are immovable, we will not be removed because we have believed in our Mediator, Jesus Christ who has been killed on our behalf. He has risen from the dead. And now He leads us into worship of our God.

God is calling us to a life of acceptable worship with both reverence and awe.

Reverence means “with respect for” and awe means “amazed”.

By consuming fire, God means that He is the same God in the Old Testament as He is in the New Testament. He's the same God when He saved you and you were amazed by Him. He's the same God when He called you when you would do anything to follow Him. He's the same God when He forgave your sins when you felt so thankful. God showed up to Moses in a burning bush at his calling, and now He's showing up later to confirm His call.