

Joshua Part 2 - "Stay" (5-14-23)
A well worn path to a brand new place

Series Overview & Goals

- Learn from Joshua's life - how to move forward and take new territory
- A journey of identity, freedom, leadership, victory, finding a home, and becoming a people

Review: "Start" (Exodus 17) Joshua learned - to fight, to follow, to trust others, and ultimately to trust God!

Today: "Stay" - Exodus 33:7-11 (Also Key Passages from Exodus 19-32)

Exodus 33:7, 11 (ESV)

(7) Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp . . . (11) Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

Context: They are approx. 3-6 months since the Exodus and have arrived at Sinai (Chapters 19-34)

1) In God's Presence with God's people

God offers to establish a covenant relationship with the people . . .

Exodus 19:4-6 (ESV)

(4) 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. (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; (6) and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

Exodus 19:7-8 (ESV)

(7) So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. (8) All 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.

Moses meets with God and receives the Words of the covenant . . .

- Exodus 20-23 (Laws given, Land borders assigned, conquest of Canaan promised)
- Moses writes down everything from 20-23 and reads it to the people.
- Moses makes a sacrifice, builds an altar, and the people committed to be obedient to the word of the Lord. Blood covenant - Half the blood poured on the altar, half sprinkled on the people (Ex 24:3-8)

Exodus 24:1-2 (ESV)

(1) Then he said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. (2) Moses alone shall come near to the LORD, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him."

Now to our **main text** for our first point (In God's presence with God's people) . . .

Exodus 24:9-11 (ESV)

(9) Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, (10) and they **saw** the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. (11) And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; **they beheld God, and ate and drank.**

Note: What a heavenly meal!!!

- **sapphire stone** - priestly garments (breast plate), the city of God (New Jerusalem), and the throne of God
- How could they be in God's presence?
- a blood sprinkled people who had not yet broken the law - enjoying communion in the Lord's presence

Hebrews 10:19-21 (ESV)

(19) Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, (20) by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, (21) and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

Note: Jesus blood has opened a permanent way into the very presence of God

Hebrews 10:22-23 (ESV)

(22) let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. (23) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Note: So, draw near and hold fast!

Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)

(24) And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Note: Assemble together - don't neglect it, because neglecting the assembly will become a habit!

We need to prioritize the assembly of God's people in God's presence . . .

2) Prioritize being in God's Presence

Exodus 24:12-14, 18 (ESV)

(12) The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." (13) So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. (14) And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them." . . . (18) Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Note: Before facing the demands and problems of the day - we need to spend time in God's presence - we have no hope of getting it right a part from him, and it can go bad fast!

Let's unpack what happens during in the next 40 days . . .

Moses (40 days with God)

- Exodus 25-31 Instructions for Sanctuary, Ark, Tabernacle, and all the various elements, the priestly instructions, commissioning the build. And then in conclusion - **God writes the 2 tablets of the testimony in stone with his own finger!**
- **Exodus 32 - The golden calf** (The people get anxious, call elders down, Aaron makes calf)
- Then, the Lord speaks with Moses regarding the calf & Moses intercedes for the people

Exodus 32:15-18 (ESV)

(15) Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written. (16) The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. (17) When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “There is a noise of war in the camp.” (18) But Moses said, “It is not the sound of shouting for victory, or the sound of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing that I hear.”

Note: Moses appears to “neglect” his duty in order to be with God - yet, it was actually the right priority!

- Moses gains insight & direction (big picture), and understanding of the specific situation (people’s sin)
- Joshua relied on his past experience to interpret what was happening. Moses relied on God’s explanation

Application: We ought to live (and lead) from the place of presence, not neglecting God’s presence due to the many demands of life.

*I wonder how much of the stress and anxiety of our day would be repaired simply by prioritizing the presence of God above all else!

Exodus 32:19-20 (ESV)

(19) And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. (20) He took the calf that they had made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it.

Note: When we stop prioritizing God’s presence we will gravitate towards idol worship . . .

- What you prioritize you will idolize
- What you idolize you will worship
- What you worship is what feeds you
- What feeds you is what you will rely on to sustain you

3) The Practice of God’s Presence**Exodus 33:7-11 (ESV)**

(7) Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. (8) Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. (9) When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. (10) And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. (11) Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

Note: Everyone could meet with God

- Moses had a face to face friendship with God
- Joshua saw Moses relationship with God & He saw the many unfaithful who stumbled.
- Joshua chose to linger in the presence of God - He established his own practice (habit) of staying in the Lord’s presence

Conclusion: “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.” (James 4:8)