

EXODUS

COVENANT PRESENCE & PURPOSE

August 6, 2023 | Reggie Roberson

WARM UP QUESTIONS: *What is the toughest problem mankind faces that needs to be solved?*

READ: Exodus 32:1-4; 33:14-19; 34:5-7

FOCUS: When we worship the true God, we won't forfeit His presence, purpose and glory.

OBSERVE:

- Many people in our world experience emptiness characterized by a lack of direction and destiny, a sense of inferiority that leads to insecurity and mistreating others and a life of discontentment that leads to bad decisions in their pursuit of contentment.
- The essence of sin is the result of forfeiting God's presence, purposes and glory because we worship something other than Him. Committing sin can be intentional (32:4) or accidental (32:24). Either way, we must take responsibility for the sin in our lives, repent and ask the Holy Spirit to empower us to change our thoughts, desires and actions.
- A covenant requires people to enter into a mutual investment and sacrifice to be lasting and relational with agreed upon terms.
- The Israelites were ungrateful, rebellious, and dissatisfied. They sought to worship an idol and to follow another leader. Aaron collected all their gold and made a golden calf - the idol. This was a false god; however the Israelites sacrificed and parted with their resources and worshiped the idol instead of Yahweh, the only true and living God.
- Idol worshiping is putting something in the place of God or before God in our lives and hearts. Christians must resist the temptation to worship idols. The scriptures teach us to have no god before God. We should refuse to bow down to anything that separates our allegiance from God and from making decisions that erode our trust and confidence in God alone. He is the One we should hold dearest in our hearts. He keeps us from the deception of the enemy, death and destruction. Our lives should glorify God and bring honor to His Name through our worship, decision-making and lifestyles. (Ex. 20:3-6; 1 John 5:21; 1Cor 10:14; Isa. 46:5)
- God's presence provides identity with Him, guides us, assures us, and distinguishes us as true worshippers.
- Jesus Christ is the One and Only mediator between God and man. He's the only One Who could bear our sins and pay the penalty for the sin of humanity forever and once and for all. His sacrifice justifies us and makes us holy, acceptable and perfect to live as redeemed people.

TAKING ACTION:

- Admit our sin, accept Jesus and ask for the Holy Spirit. Do not breach our covenant with the Lord by worshiping idols. Follow the Discipleship Path by participating in a Life Group, a Discipleship Class and Growth Track.

REFLECT:

- Do you put anything in your life before Jesus Christ and His Word?

PRAY: *Heavenly Father, Help us to have a mind to worship You and You only as we remain in Your presence and glorify You and bring honor to Your Name. Help us to walk in Your fullness as we worship You in Spirit and in Truth as we carry out the purposes You designed us for. Empower us to be true witnesses of You and the Gospel. Thank You for being a good, good Father. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.*