

Life of Moses Study (November 8, 2020)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Exodus 19:1-6, 16-22

NOTE: The Israelites remained in Rephidim after the Lord miraculously provided water from the rock at Horeb. During that time the Amalek attacked the people, so Moses enlisted Joshua to choose men to fight the enemy. During the conflict they found that when Moses held up his hand the Israelites would prevail in battle. But when he lowered his hand, Amalek would prevail. So Aaron and Hur helped Moses keep his hand up, while Joshua and his men won the battle (Exodus 17:8-16). Perhaps God was teaching Moses that he would need the assistance of others in order to lead the group of Israelites (consisting of about 2.5 million people). Jethro (Moses' father-in-law) brought Zipporah (Moses' wife) and their two sons to visit Moses. Jethro observed all that Moses was doing for the people, and grew concerned Moses would wear himself out. He suggested Moses recruit some help from among the people. "So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them head over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens" (Exodus 18:24-25). God was preparing Moses and the people for the next stage of His covenant relationship with them!

1. Describe the significance of Mt. Sinai (Exodus 3:1-2,12). How were God's promises being fulfilled?

2. God said concerning the Israelites, "I bore you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself." From Deuteronomy 32:10-11; Job 39:27-28 and Isaiah 40:31, explain how the imagery of an eagle reflects God's care and affection for His people.

3. **NOTE:** "We will never properly understand the Exodus if we forget the connection to the patriarchs, which is foundational to the book's message. The Exodus is about God's keeping a promise He made to Abraham. What is about to transpire on Mount Sinai is *not* a new covenant, but the continuation and deepening of an existing covenant, the covenant God made with Israel's ancestors long ago. Hence, the giving of the law does not represent the initiation of God's relationship with His people but a heightening of that relationship."

(The NIV Life Application Commentary-Exodus by Peter Enns)

What were the conditions and benefits of the covenant that the Lord was commencing to the Israelites (Exodus 19:4-5)? What ultimate need for humanity is revealed through the requirement of these conditions that was later met by Jesus Christ (Romans 3:21-28)? What does this mean to you?

4. **NOTE:** "What made God's people so precious was not their own intrinsic value; it was only the value placed on them by God's love. They were not precious because of who *they were* but because of who *God was*." (Preaching the Word-Exodus by Philip Graham Ryken)

As God's treasured possession, what was the Israelite's special calling (Exodus 19:6)? What is God's view of and special calling for believers (1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10)? How should this identity and calling impact our conduct (1 Peter 2:11-17)?

5. (Read: Exodus 3:4-6; 19:10-15; Leviticus 20:7) What attribute of God did Moses discover during his first encounter at Mt Sinai that is now being realized by the people? How did God teach them this attribute about Himself in each instance? What do you find regarding approaching a Holy God?

6. How does the encounter with God at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19:10-25) stand in contrast to the believer's encounter with God at "Mt. Zion" (John 14:6-7; Hebrews 12:18-29)?

Mt. Sinai:

Mt. Zion:

7. Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God (Exodus 19:17). Who could you bring to "meet" God? At Mt. Sinai God gave Moses a warning for the people. What warning should you lovingly share with others?