



Sermon Overview

Exodus 19 brings Moses full circle; from his calling in Exodus 3 with the accompany promise (3:12) that the Israelite nation would freely serve and worship God on the same mountain.

When we think of worshiping God and mountain top experiences we may not include intense, multi-day preparation (19:10) and prohibitions with the threat of death (19:12). But, this meeting with God required both. The Israelites found themselves in a terrifying situation. Even after all their longing for freedom, witnessing God's power, and preparation at the mountain, they wouldn't face God. They couldn't. Someone had to go in their place. Someone was required to mediate with the Almighty. As God's chosen instrument, Moses met with the LORD.

As slaves for generations under tyrannical Egyptian kings, the Israelites were accustomed to the rule of law applied with force. And, this is very well what they may have been expecting from encountering God. What they experienced, however, was different. Instead of starting with what the Israelites must do to win and keep the favor of God, God begins with telling his children who He is and what He has done. The context of God's law for his people is based on God's identity, not the Israelites. The foundation of God's law for our life is found in the relationship he has established with his people: "I am the LORD *your* God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." (20:2)

[*Listen to recent sermons*](#)

[*Visit Exodus Resource Page*](#)

Getting Started

Reflect on times in your life (as a child or adult) where you have understood the expectation on you but chose to live/do otherwise. What was the outcome of those episodes?

Starting with God

1. According to Exodus 19:5-6, what is God's purpose in bringing the Israelites out of Egypt and in giving them his law?

2. God descended in overwhelming power and demanded that the people take three days to consecrate themselves in preparation for seeing God. Look together at Exodus 19:10-15 to note how they were supposed to prepare themselves. If you were an Israelite, what message would you have understood from this three-day preparation and repeated warnings to not touch the mountain?

3. Many people think of God's law as something opposed to grace. Yet the Ten Commandments are given on the foundation of God's grace. How is grace expressed in Exodus 20:2?

Living God's Word

4. What is the appropriate response to God's grace according to Exodus 20: 2-17? How does this change your view of God's law?

5. Many people think that Christianity is living by a bunch of rules. Is it? If not, what role do the Ten Commandments have in the life of a believer?

Prayer

Father God, we are grateful for your law and the direction it gives our lives. We repent for all the ways we fall short. We praise you for your grace found in Christ alone. Please mold our hearts and minds to make our thoughts and actions pleasing to you. Amen.