

October 25, 2009

IT'S NOBODY'S BUSINESS (by Dr. Stan Reeder)

Exodus 19 and 24; Luke 22:39-46

INTRODUCTION:

Today we are going to study sections of the 19th chapter of Exodus in order to receive instruction for our meeting with God. In the 19th chapter of Exodus, meeting with God was Nobody's business . . . that is, the business of Moses: Mr. Nobody. Meeting with God is not only Nobody's business, it is your business as well. In fact, your meeting with God is the most important business you will ever have. Your meeting with God is the most profitable item in your daily agenda.

Through meeting with God – praying and reading His Word – you are able to see things accomplished that would not otherwise ever take place.

Through meeting with God you will see transformation of your life that you were powerless to bring about.

Through meeting with God you will see transformation in the personal lives of others where you have no business even poking your nose; transformation that would never take place apart from your prayer.

Through meeting with God you are able to experience blessing upon your life and the lives of others far beyond what your resources would ever enable you to give.

Through meeting with God you are able to have influence in places, in homes, in countries, you will never be able to go; in places you may never even see.

Your meeting with God is not just Nobody's business it is the most important business that you will ever have.

Exodus 19 records Moses' meeting with God and gives us instruction for our meeting with Him as well. Many of you have seen Cecile B. DeMille's classic movie "The Ten Commandments." I remember watching that movie with my family. My dad took out his Bible and read through the Scripture so he could tell us when the movie was portraying actual events and when it was taking dramatic license to elaborate the record. If you were to base your opinion on that great movie, you would think that Moses' had a relatively brief trip up the mountain where he met with God and received the Ten Commandments. In actual fact, Moses spent a total of 80 days in fasting and took not just one trip, or two trips up the mountain, but rather 7 trips up and down that mountain before this meeting was complete.

Moses took seven trips up and down the mountain in his meeting with God.

What was the purpose of meeting with God? It is the same purpose for which we meet with Him today.

The purpose of meeting with God (Exodus 19:6; 1 Peter 2:9):
God desires to create . . .

a) A kingdom of priests.

You might say, "I'm no priest!" This concept of making a priest out of you is not just an Old Testament concept. It is clearly a New Testament concept. In fact it was one of the three central doctrines of the protestant reformation. Why would God want to make a priest out of you? Priests were empowered to come into his presence and had power and influence before God. Through meeting with God, He wants to make you powerful.

b) A holy people.

You might say, "I'm no saint!" Yes you are through the power of God's Holy Spirit within you. A saint is exactly what God intends you to be. One of the most common ways in which believers were referred to throughout the New Testament is that they were *one of the saints*. What is a holy person like? They are powerful and they are pure. Moses clearly indicates in Exodus 20:20 that God meets with us *so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning*. Through meeting with God, He wants to make you pure.

c) A people who declare His praises.

You might say, "I'm no evangelist!" One of the greatest results of meeting with God is that He gives us a spirit of praise. Through meeting with God, He wants to make you praise.

He wants to fill you with POWER!

He wants to fill you with PURITY!

He wants to fill you with PRAISE!

How do we go about meeting with God so He can fill us with POWER, PURITY, and PRAISE?

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEETING WITH GOD:

1. Majesty of God (Exodus 19:4, 18).

This passage gives us a clear glimpse of the majesty of God.

Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently (v. 18)

Don't enter into your meeting of God lightly. Enter into your meeting with God with a sense of His majesty.

Keeping in mind that God is the Creator, think of this: The average galaxy contains about 100 billion stars and there are at least 100 million galaxies in known space. Einstein believed that we have scanned with our largest telescopes only one-billionth of theoretical space. This means that there are probably something like 10 octillion stars in space.

If you were to travel at the speed of light –186,300 miles per second or 670 million miles per hour – you would reach the moon in 10 seconds, you would pass the sun in 10 minutes. It would take you 100,000 years to get past the first half of our galaxy.

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.*

The Book of Hebrews, 12:21 indicates: ***The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”*** The 12th chapter closes with this warning: ***Therefore, . . . let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12:28-29)***

Prayer is a summit meeting in the very throne room of the universe. There is no higher level.

- Ralph Herring, The Tremendous Power of Prayer, vii.

In light of the majesty of God we are advised to . . .

2. Exercise limits (Exodus 19:12, 23b).

More than once in chapter 19, Moses is warned - in light of the majesty and power of God - to set limits for the people: ***Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, ‘Be careful that you do not go up the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. (Exodus 19:12)***

Today it seems that we have gone to the opposite extreme and think nothing of approaching a God of majesty in a careless and casual fashion.

I urge you in your meeting with God to symbolize your reverence for Him by kneeling in His presence.

I urge you to take time and solely dedicate it to your meeting with God. We live in a busy society.

I was sent an email this week from Dawn Griffin with an acrostic for BUSY: Being Under Satan’s Yoke.

As a result of a full and busy schedule we think of all kinds of things we can do while we are meeting with God. We can make our prayer time the time when we vacuum the house, or the time when we drive to work, or the time when we are waiting for an appointment, or the time when we exercise by jogging, or walking, or being on the treadmill. We can make our prayer time while we are washing the dishes or cutting the lawn or having our shower.

Now, I'm not saying we shouldn't enjoy a constant communion with the Lord but let's set limits around our primary meeting with God.

Friends, if you were given the privilege of a hearing with President Bush would you say . . . "Hey, I tell you what, I've got a very busy schedule today . . . if you'd just show up when I'm cutting the lawn that would really save me some time."

Give Him a time worthy of His majesty, not the scraps you have left over.

3. E stablish a place (Exodus 19:3):

Places God has used for meeting . . .

- a) The Mountain (Exodus 19).
- b) The Tent of Meeting (Exodus 33:7-11a)
- c) The Tabernacle (Exodus 40:34)
- d) The Temple (1 Chronicles 14:4-6, 12)
- e) The Believer (1 Corinthians 3:16; Revelation 3:20)
- f) The "Place" (Luke 22:39-40).

I urge you to find a place for your meeting with God. A quiet place. A place free from interruption. A consistent place.

4. T ime.

You have to give the Lord a significant block of daily time if He is going to work power, purity, and praise in your life.

*With creation, time began, and everything was placed under its power. God has placed all living creatures under a law of slow growth. Everything needs time . . . There can be no communion with a holy God, no fellowship between heaven and earth, no power for the salvation of the souls of others, unless much time is set apart for it. . . . The **life of grace** depends entirely on the time men are willing to give to it day by day.*

- Andrew Murray, Prayer Power, 100

It is well to let prayer be the first employment in the early morning and the last in the evening. Avoid diligently those false and deceptive thoughts which say, "I will pray an hour hence; I must first perform this or that." For with such thoughts a

man quits prayer for business, which lays hold of and entangles him so that he comes not to pray the whole day long.

- Martin Luther, *The Tremendous Power of Prayer*, 126

Do not have your concert first, then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all in harmony with Him.

- J. Hudson Taylor, *TTPoP*, 128

Friends, my fear in saying this to you is that you will think it legalistic or some magic formula, or too harsh . . . but let me be forthright with you today. I cannot see how God can do significant work of power, purity and praise in your life while you give him your half-hearted attention while you wash the dishes or walk on the treadmill.

5. **I mportant Preparations:**

a) **Commitment (Exodus 19:8).**

Before God met with the people in power he asked for their commitment to obey. God's blessing, his power, his purity, his praises are all contingent on our obedience. *Now, if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then . . . you will be my treasured possession . . . you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exodus 19:5, 6).* The people responded together *We will do everything the Lord has said (Exodus 19:8).*

C.S. Lewis claimed:

There were two kinds of people: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, "All right, then, have it your way.

- C.S. Lewis, *TTPoP*, 142.

b) **Consecration (Exodus 19:10).**

The first thing that should concern you in your conversation with God is personal cleansing. Before you pray for a change of circumstances, you should pray for a change in character.

- John Lavender in *The Tremendous Power of Prayer* 139

6. **N ever failing presence (Exodus 19:20).**

God will never fail to meet with you. Exodus 19:20 says: *The Lord descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the Mountain.* A meeting with God is not made possible by our preparation, it is really only possible because God in His grace meets with us. He will be faithful to you.

7. **G et it down in writing (Exodus 24:4; 34:27-28).**

Thankfully, God obeyed Moses and wrote down everything he was instructed to write. This became the national history record of God's working in their lives.

If you keep a prayer list, it can become the personal history of God's working in your personal life. Of the way in which he is giving you power, purity, and praise.

Keep a prayer list where you can organize and record your prayer time. So you can daily pray for your family and their specific, current needs, for those who are unsaved, the unsanctified, the sick, the mourning, the needy, those in trouble, for specific marriages, for you civil, state and federal government leaders, for the needs of the church, for your pastors, for your enemies, for your friends, for businessmen, for your missionaries, and other leaders. With a prayer list, when you say you will pray for someone daily, you will be true to your word. Without a prayer list, you may well forget to pray for those to whom you promised.

Keep a prayer list where you can write down those areas about which God is speaking to you and pray for those things specifically.

Keep a prayer list where you can write down verses and promises and challenges that God is giving to you.

Keep a prayer list where you can record the victories so that you can go back to them daily and praise Him.

APPLICATION:

The effect of meeting with God:

a) Our Radiance (Exodus 34:9; Matthew 5:16).

Radiance is the bi-product of power and purity. Don't go looking for the radiance. Go to God for power and purity and you will be radiant.

b) God's Praise (Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:9).

When there is power and purity . . . there will be praise. People will see your radiance, you will be filled with praise to God.

Is God speaking to you about spending time with Him? Will you write out his direction right now and covenant to say "yes" to His leading?

What the church needs today is not more machinery or better, nor new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use – me of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men – men of prayer.

E.M. Bounds, TTPofP, 164.