

Sermon Handout

“The Fear of God”

Exodus 19:7-25

- I.** The people consent to serve God vv. 7-8
 - A.** Acknowledgment of God’s work v. 4
 - B.** Consent to God’s conditions v. 5-6
 - “Obey my voice”
 - “Keep my covenant”

- II.** God declares the mountain holy ground
 - A.** The people may hear v. 9 (*cf.* 19-29)
 - B.** The people may not draw near vv. 12-13, 21-24
 - “priests” – who might these be?
 - C.** Background
 - 1. Moses first encounter Ex 3:2-6 (*cf.* Is 6:2)
 - 2. Commandments (again) Ex 34:1-3
 - 3. Moses’ veiled face Ex 34:29-34 (*cf.* II Cor 3:4-18)

- III.** Preparation for approaching God
 - A.** Be ready vv. 11, 15
 - B.** Cleanse yourselves vv. 10, 14
 - C.** Abstain from conjugal relations (*cf.* I Cor 7:5)
 - D.** Stay back from the mountain vv. 12-13

- IV.** Old God and new God? vv. 20-25
 - A.** The fear of God
 - 1. Clean & enduring: Ps 19:9
 - 2. Wisdom: Job 28:28; Ps 111:10
 - 3. Lacking in the wicked: Ps 36:1 (*cf.* Rom 3:16-18)
 - 4. Brings life: Pr 14:27; Pr 19:23
 - 5. Jesus’ warning: Mt 10:28 (*cf.* Lk 12:5); *see* Lk 23:39-43
 - 6. Apostles’ warnings: Rom 11:20-21; Heb 4:1-3; I Pet 2:15-17

 - B.** God is gracious and merciful
 - 1. Ex 34:4-7 – context: second giving of the Commandments
 - 2. Ps 37:25-28 – contrast mercy & judgment; depart from evil
 - 3. Jonah 4:2 – he knew God was merciful & forgiving

 - C.** Fear of God is a great spiritual motivator to keep covenant with God
 - Let us learn a healthy fear of God, knowing also the door of intercession is open to us II Cor 3:18; John 15:7-9