

# **A Portrait of Christ- Centered Fellowship**

**Pastor Guy Gray**

**Exodus 24**

## **God's Ultimate Purpose and Plan - In Picture Form!**

Exodus 24 is visually stunning! But to “get it” you’ll have to use your imagination to form a picture of the scene that is described. It all begins with the Israelites at ground level. From there the scene will go higher and higher, until Moses disappears at the very top of the mountain into a shimmering cloud of glory the very presence of God Himself. Two very significant events will take place on this trek from ground level to the heights of glory. First, there will be a solemn ceremony with sacrifices and the sprinkling of blood very serious and graphic stuff. Then there will be an amazing feast for the elders of Israel and at this feast these elders will be allowed a special view of God in His awesome glory! If you can get a picture of all this in your mind, then you will have gained, in picture form, a clearer understanding of the purpose and plan of God for your own life experience with God through Christ. God’s ultimate desire is that we draw closer to Him in deep fellowship. God said that He would bring His people “unto Himself” ( Exodus 6:6-7; 19:4). At this mountain experience, that is exactly what He is doing. As we will see, the mountain top feast and fellowship with God is a Biblical picture of God’s purpose and promise in the Gospel of Christ.

## **Time to Get Serious about Your Relationship with God**

Picture bowls of freshly spilt blood and people getting sprinkled with that blood. It’s graphic and it’s gripping. Picture it really. The message of the blood, at least in part, is that it’s time to get serious with God! This is not an afternoon picnic in the park. This is the stuff of life and death. There is nothing more important in the entire world than your relationship with God. That’s what the blood is all about. When a covenant agreement was made with a blood sacrifice it meant that those involved were committed to the very core of their being. Their whole life was wrapped up in this. The blood was thrown upon the alter, representing God’s absolute commitment to His people. Then the blood was sprinkled upon the people, representing their complete commitment to God. Serious in the extreme!

## **God's Provision makes it Possible**

When the people made this serious commitment, they promised to keep all the Words that God had commanded. But as we know, they failed to follow through as they should have. This is where the second meaning of the blood comes into play. The blood represented God’s

provision of a sacrifice to cover the imperfection and failure of the people. The blood is the grace of God in picture form. How in the world could these imperfect people ever hope to have fellowship with a Holy God? Answer: the blood of the sacrifice God's provision. So picture this. There they stand covered in blood utterly serious before God and entirely covered by His Grace.

### **A Feast beyond Your Wildest Dreams**

Next comes the feast. It is beyond their wildest dreams. Most amazing of all is that they sit down to the feast in the very presence of the glory of God. Can you picture this? They expect to die. That is how overwhelming the glory of God is. But they don't. Instead they eat and drink in what has to be the most amazing fellowship experience of their entire lives. What amazing grace is this! This is the purpose and plan of God. Throughout the Bible this "feast on a mountain with God" becomes the picture of God's salvation purpose for our lives. It's about fellowship with God. That fellowship will find its completion with God himself in the glory of heaven (Isaiah 25:6-9 & Revelation 19:9). But until then, this picture also speaks of God's intention that we live our lives in deep fellowship with Him day by day growing deeper in that fellowship all the time.

### **The Invitation has Your Name on it**

It's like an invitation that has your name on it. Read Matthew 22:1-10. Through the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Lord has invited you to this amazing banquet all provided for by His grace through Jesus. But will you answer the invitation? Will you come to Jesus in humble faith for salvation? Will you seek His fellowship in your life daily as you live in this broken world?

### **Pure Glory**

Remember - there is more. Moses went up to the highest height. He thirsted to experience more of God and pursued that! But what is most wonderful about the gospel of Christ is that Jesus has come down to us each and as He does He brings the glory of God Himself to our lives. See 2 Corinthians 4:6. Picture that. Then thank Him, worship Him and trust Him. You will be amazed at what you might see as you do!

### **Questions for Further Reflection & Discussion**

#### **Your Relationship With God**

There is nothing more important than your relationship with God. Unfortunately, we live in a time and a culture that constantly seeks to tell us the opposite. So God often pursues us and reminds us. The Israelites that day experienced sacrifice and the sprinkling of blood. What is God doing in your life to encourage you to get more serious about your relationship with Him?

### **God Wants Fellowship**

The imagery of the moment is stunning. Moses is instructed to press on up to the top of the mountain; to press on into deeper fellowship with God. What is the state of **your** fellowship with God right now? What would it look like for you to press on?

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **TODAY**

Join us after the service  
for coffee & breakfast

### **MONDAY 03/05**

Women's Bible Study in  
Daniel, 7pm, RWCC.  
Contact Joan Lowe for  
Info 697.4676

### **FRIDAY 03/09**

High School Game Night  
7pm, Mt. Park Church

### **FRI 03/09- SAT 03/17**

El Salvador Mission Trip

### **SUNDAY 03/11**

SHAPE Revisited  
4pm, RWCC

Singles Conversation

1pm, RWCC

### **FRIDAY 03/16**

Friday Night Fellowship  
4th & 5th Grade Bowling  
7pm, RSVP to Lindsie

### **SATURDAY 03/17**

Ministry Prayer Time  
8am, RWLG