

Exodus 33-34 – 16 July 2020

“The Grace To Move Beyond Rebellion”

Introduction

Moses has come up to top of Mt Sinai for 40 days. God will give him & Israel 2 things:

1. The Law – We've seen this in chapter 19-24
2. The Tabernacle – in chapter 25-31

The Law – how to represent God to the world

The Tabernacle – God representing Himself to Israel

When there's misrepresentation of God, it's rebellion

When we rebel against our very purpose, there are real practical effects in this life.

But there are also real practical cures for rebellion

Chap 32 – Israel just rebelled against God by ascribing God's glory & wonder to a golden calf.

Moses interceded on behalf of the people, as Jesus. There is repentance & atonement

But the people will still deal w/ real life effects.

Today, we'll see 2 practical effects but also 2 cures for rebellion

1st Practical Effect of Rebellion – Separation From God (Chap 33)

33:1-11 - *Israel at a distance (spiritual distance)*

Read Chap 33:1-4

1. So it is an angel and not God Himself that will go with them on their way to the Promised Land.
2. They're learning that God hates sin.
3. They've put themselves at a spiritual distance.
4. There becomes this separation.
 - a. It's not loss of relationship, but of fellowship.
 - b. Still getting God's promises but w/o Him.

Read Chap 33:5-6

1. It's good for Israel to be saddened for a while.
2. It's good that they see this as a step backward
3. What good is the land w/o God?
 - a. What good is the blessing w/o the Blesser?
 - b. What good is a diamond engagement ring, when the answer is no?

Read Chap 33:7-11

1. Moses still went to meet God, b/c Tabernacle was more than ritual, it was intimacy/fellowship
2. Notice vs 9 “the people rose up & worshipped”
 - a. There is repentance & mourning.
3. Paul says in Rom 11:11 that Gentile salvation should provoke the Jews to jealousy.
 - a. This is what Moses is doing simply by living a life of fellowship with God.
4. No one should want to be in this place, but if you are, recognize the separation for what it is.
 - a. Lonely, empty, purposelessness

33:12-23 – *Moses intercedes for the Lord's presence*

Read Chap 33:12-17

1. God has grace b/c of Moses' intercession
2. Vs 15–No blessing matters if You're not w/ us
3. Vs 16 – The sign we're Christians? God w/ us!
 - a. Rahab knew it (Read Jos 2:9-10a)
 - b. Do they know your story of what God did?

Read Chap 33:18-20

1. What a contrast, while Israel mourned separation, Moses enjoyed some of the deepest fellowship a man could receive!
 - a. God is not wronging Israel; He's being gracious to Moses!
2. “No one can see God and live”
 - a. This is to see the eternal God unveiled
 - b. Jesus was fully God but veiled in flesh
 - i. He disrobed of omnipresence, etc.
 - ii. Jesus body was veil into the Holy of Holies
 - iii. Also see John 1:1-2, 14, 18

Read Chap 33:21-23

1. Moses got to see as if an afterglow
2. Just a mere after-image will have effects!
3. Sin will separate, but there's always God's grace ready to bring you deeper!
4. Read Psm 84:10 – “A day in Thy courts, is better than a thousand” elsewhere.

2nd Practical Effect of Rebellion – Scars of Remembrance (Chap 34:1-8)

Read Chap 34:1-4

1. This time Moses has to make the stone tablets
 - a. 1st time, the indication is God wrote on tablets that were there
 - b. Moses made them and carried them up mt.
2. Repentance comes with scars
 - a. When lessons have to be re-taken, there will be effects from not passing the test the 1st time.
 - b. Moses hands now get chipped up
 - c. Battle of Ai – people died leaving scars on hearts.
 - d. Having child out of marriage, leaves a mark
 - e. Paul Movie – pictured Paul's murder victims haunting him for life
 - f. Jesus too carries scars, but not of His own rebellion but of ours. (Read Zec 13:6)
 - g. Let these scars drive us to remember the place that sin leads to

Read Chap 34:5-8

1. He's both gracious and full of truth
2. Great reminder that the Lord's great character has the ability to go beyond our scars!
 - a. He's ready to forgive and be merciful
 - b. But the guilty continue under wrath of God

1st Practical Cure for Rebellion – Collaboration With God (Chap 34:9-17)

Read Chap 34:9-11

1. So here the Lord has re-confirmed His covenant with all Israel!
2. He will do the work of driving out the Canaanite nations in the Promised Land.
3. Israel 's only part in defeating the nation in the first place is to believe that God will do it!
 - a. Then Israel has a role to play, as God will allow them to collaborate with Him
 - b. Just as Jesus defeated sin on the cross, then we have a role to play.

Read Chap 34:12-17

1. There's active component for us, to keep sin away.
 - a. God has broken the power of sin on cross, but we need to actively destroy it out of our life
2. Making a covenant w/ idol-worshippers can't help in any way.
3. Israel will later be tricked into making a covenant with the Gibeonites, near Jerusalem.
 - a. Powerful city, that was shaking b4 Jehovah
 - b. Oh the scars Israel would receive from this covenant of sin with idol—worshippers.
4. The Lord is asking us to collaborate in keeping sin out of our lives...for our own good!
 - a. Vs 12 – “Lest it be for a snare...”
 - b. These relationships will result in full marriage relationships that will take your heart!
5. Be proactive regarding sin
 - a. God has *broken their power*
 - b. Now we need to go *break their presence!*
(Idols & reminders of sin)

2nd Practical Cure of Rebellion – Commitment To God (Chap 34:18-28)

Read Chap 34:18

1. “As I commanded thee” - There’s nothing new
 - a. These are here to reaffirm the covenant
 - b. What is important to God to reaffirm?
 - i. Laws that show our commitment to God!
2. All 3 major feasts will be brought up

Read Chap 34:19-20

1. Redeeming the first born shows we own God.

Read Chap 34:21-23

1. So the Sabbath & other major feasts show their commitment to godly traditions and healthy habits
2. You want to get rid of sin? Develop godly traditions and healthy habits.

Read Chap 34:24-26

1. Even your possessions are committed to Lord

Read Chap 34:27-28

1. So the Lord Himself wrote the 10 Commandments.
2. Lord says – Make new godly traditions therewith to create new memories!
3. Do things to focus your heart on creating relationship and encounters with God.
 - a. Stop thinking about bad memories by creating good godly ones.

The Choice Is Yours – A Life Of Rebellion Or A Life Of Communion With God (Chap 34:29-35)

As Moses comes down from Mt., he's so much closer w/ God than Israel. It's a stark difference

Read Chap 34:29-35

1. Moses wasn't the strange one, they were!
2. They could have been just as he was, but for their choices!

Conclusion

So Israel's repentance after their idolatry w/ Golden Calf is the tale of two lessons:

There are 2 Practical Effects of Rebellion

1. Separation from God

- a. A child of God can't lose relationship, but they can lose intimacy and fellowship

2. Scars of Remembrance

- a. Let the scars remind you never to go back!

Praise God there is “Grace To Move Forward From Rebellion”

There are 2 Practical Cures For Rebellion

1. Collaboration with God

- a. God has broken their power
- b. No we need to break their presence!

2. Commitment to God

- a. Create new memories and traditions

Notice the Effects & the Cures are OPPOSITES!!