

SMOKE

– 3 –

Close Enough to Burn

- Where there's smoke, there's fire.
- We want the smoke – the evidence of God's presence in our lives.
- When God shows up, He always leaves evidence.

50 days after the Passover.

Exodus 19:16-18 (ESV) 16 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. 17 Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly.

Exodus 20:18-21 (ESV) 18 Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of

the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off 19 and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” 20 Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.” 21 The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

- Ever felt like you can't approach God?

The Feast of Weeks:

- Also called Shavuot or Pentecost
- It was a Jewish festival celebrated 50 days or 7 weeks after Passover
- It marked the end of the grain harvest and was a time to thank God for His provision by offering the firstfruits of the wheat
- The giving of the Law at Mount Sinai.

Acts 2:1-4 (ESV) When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and

rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- He doesn't want us to be like Israel standing far off.
- What happened at Pentecost was that God, through His Holy Spirit gave us access.

Acts 2:36-39 (ESV) 36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

- He has done everything He can possibly do to give you the opportunity step in!
- 3000 people saved

What were they doing before Pentecost? 120 of them.

Acts 1:14 (ESV) All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

After Pentecost?

Acts 2:42-47 (ESV) 42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 47...And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.