

Sermon Notes

Exodus – The Revealing of God’s Glory and His Design for the Chosen #95

“Standing in the Gap” -- Exodus 32:7-14

I. Review and introduction.

A. Moses’ mountaintop experience shifted to a spiritual low in the valley.

1. The people had another idea about who and how to worship!

B. God broke the news to Moses.

1. The sheep were restless and revelry was in the camp.

C. The text: Exodus 32:7-14

II. Exposition

A. Exodus 32:7-8

1. “Have corrupted themselves,” verse 7.

a. Moral conduct is in view.

2. They turned aside “quickly,” verse 8.

a. Impatience is a familiar tendency among the people of God. If it sounds familiar, that is because we all have this trait.

b. Be careful of worshipping the true God falsely.

B. Exodus 32:9-10

1. “Stiff-necked people”

a. Term refers to a “beast of burden.”

b. First use of the term to describe Israel. It becomes the chief designation.

1, Deut. 9:6,13; 10:16. See also Rom. 6:23; 2:5

2. “I will make you a great nation,” verse 10.

a. God desires to move the mediator to get involved.

b. The promise was given earlier to Abraham – Gen. 12:2

C. Exodus 32:11-13

1. An invitation to I _____ but also to E _____.

a. God was testing Moses.

b. Moses prayed 40 days – Deuteronomy 9:25

c. There is no attempt to justify the people.

D. Exodus 32:14

1. Did God change His mind?

a. Peter Enns says yes.

2. God’s purpose was always to display mercy.

a. The Psalmist reflects on this event – Ps 106:19-22.

b. Repent – or moved with pity and to have compassion.

c. John MacKay.

III. Special Focus

A. A study in the mediatorial work of Moses.

1. He did not m_____ Israel’s sin.

a. He did not put the “best face on it.”

b. God had the right to bring destruction.

2. Note contrast of Moses’ intervention with Abraham’s intervention.

a. Abraham’s prayer was based upon a righteous remnant of the people. There was none!

1. Romans 3:10-11

B. Moses’ case – Five compelling reasons for mercy.

Adapted from Philip Ryken.

1. God’s fatherly affection – Ex. 32:11; Ex. 4:22

a. True of us, too – Eph 1:4; John 10:29b

2. God’s past investment – Ex. 20:2

a. True of us, too – Phil. 1:6

3. God’s public reputation

a. Save the people not for their sake, but for your s_____ Ex. 7:5; 32:12a

4. God’s merciful compassion – Ps. 25:6; Neh 9:31

5. God’s everlasting covenant.

a. An argument based upon a promise.

b. True of us, too – Heb. 13:20; II Tim 2:13

IV. Point for Reflection.

A. Another mediator has arisen in the likeness of Moses, but His intercession is better and guaranteed in His own blood.

1. See John 17:2,9,11; Rom 8:34; I John 2:1b-2a