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## If You Don't Go With Me

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## Introduction

- Give honor to Bro. Burnett, Bro. Hibbler.
- Honored to be among you. It's a privilege to be able to worship with you all this morning!

## Outline

Main thought/call to action: I don't want to go anywhere without His presence! Don't leave this sanctuary this morning without the presence of God! The promises don't matter, the blessings don't matter if we don't have the presence of God! Moses understood that the thing that made the promise land the "Promise Land" was the presence of God!

## God's threat to leave the Israelites without His presence (Exodus 33).

In Exodus 19-20 Israel comes to Mt. Sinai and God speaks to them (not just Moses). After the ten commandments the people are afraid and ask Moses to go speak with God for them. But I want to point out that they've already heard

**4** "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; **5** you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, **6** but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

-- *Exodus 20:4-6*

Also, interesting is that the first thing God tells Moses once he goes up is how to build an altar. And

the Lord says this:

In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you.

-- *Exodus 20:24b*

I'm sure many of you know the story. For the next couple of chapters we get God's direction to Moses while he's on the mountain. In chapter 32 the narrator cuts back to the people and shows us what they've been doing while Moses was up on the mountain: building an idol! They built a golden calf! Now, be clear, they are trying to worship their God. Not some new god or other god. They are trying to worship the "God that delivered them from Egypt." There's only one problem: God just told them not to create any carved image! Of anything!

Because of their immediate disobedience to God's command He tells Moses He will keep his promise, but He will not go with them:

**1** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.' **2** And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. **3** Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."

-- *Exodus 33:1-3*

Moses's reaction: if Your Presence does not go with us, I do not want to go:

**15** Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.

-- *Exodus 33:15*

Many people would not have reacted the way Moses did! God promised to send His angel before them! He would still drive out the inhabitants of the land! He would still bless them and give them the land flowing with milk and honey!

But Moses knew:

- None of the blessings mattered without the Presence of God!
- God's presence was what set them apart in the first place:

**16** For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth."

-- *Exodus 33:16*

It was God's presence that made them a special people! It was God's presence that released them from captivity in Egypt! They might have received the immediate promised blessings of

the land, but they would be no different than those who had lived there before. Their God-given purpose, their very identity as the people of Jehovah would be lost.

Lord! If Your presence does not go with us, do not make us go! Lord, if you are not with me, I do not want to go!

Moses knew: they would not be able to handle the blessing without the continued presence of God! I might be given the blessing He promised, but if He's not going with me, then I won't be able to keep it up on my own!

The blessing God wants to give you, the blessing God wants to work *in* you and *through* you is not something you can sustain on your own! God's plans for you are much bigger and better than just what you can do in your own ability!

God! If you're not with me I don't want to go!

And Moses follows that immediately with:

**17** So the Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name."

**18** And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."

**19** Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." **20** But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." **21** And the Lord said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. **22** So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. **23** Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

## The Presence of God. What does this mean?

Looking at the Hebrew word: pa-nay, pa-nay cgh (glottal) huh

Translated in many other places as

### "your face"

Joshua 7:10 after the Israel's loss at Ai:

**10** So the Lord said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? **11** Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them.

In Job 1:11, when Sata attacks Job's character:

**11** But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

In Psalm 13:1 the psalmist pleads with God to remember him:

**1** How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?  
How long will You hide Your face from me?

In Ezra 9:6 when the prophet is mourning the sin of the people:

**6** And I said: "O my God, I am too ashamed and humiliated to lift up my face to You, my God; for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has grown up to the heavens.

## **"your sight"**

In Psalm 9:19-20 when the psalmist is asking God to turn His attention to the arrogance of wicked men:

**19** Arise, O Lord,  
Do not let man prevail;  
Let the nations be judged in Your sight.  
**20** Put them in fear, O Lord,  
That the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah.

1 Kings 9:7 which we'll visit in a minute.

## **"your countenance"**

In Psalm 4:6 when the psalmist asks God to give his attention to those who ask for someone who can show them good:

**6** There are many who say,  
"Who will show us any good?"  
Lord, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us.

In Psalm 44:3 when the psalmist remembers the redemption and deliverance of the Lord:

**3** For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword,  
Nor did their own arm save them;  
But it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance,  
Because You favored them.

## **Focused, purposeful, directed attention of God.**

It's the same word in the original Hebrew for all of these. We can see that the presence of God in this passage indicates focused attention. Direction of sight. Where you are facing. Not just "I'm here," but "I'm present." I'm not on my smartphone, I'm not checking my Instagram. You've got my attention.

Exodus 33 is talking about the focused, purposeful, directed attention of God.

## God's desire from the beginning and purpose for Israel.

Communion with His creation has been God's purpose from the beginning! Since the beginning sin has disrupted that fellowship.

God called Abraham out of his people to make His people: a people set apart who could have fellowship with Him. From the beginning of their journey into the wilderness God gave them His presence in a visible, tangible way: Exodus 13: 17-22

## The Ark of the Covenant

Planned (Exodus 25) and built (Exodus 37).

**21** You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. **22** And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

-- *Exodus 25:21-22*

## Solomon's dedication of the temple (1 Kings 8-9)

Making a permanent home for the Presence of God

### The presence of God is what made it special.

The temple was just a building, beautiful as it was. But it wasn't until they brought the Ark, the presence of God, that it became the Temple:

**6** Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim. [...] **10** And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, **11** so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

-- *1 Kings 8:6,10-11*

Solomon dedicates the ark and makes this remark:

**27** "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! **28** Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O Lord my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today: **29** that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place. **30** And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You

hear, forgive.

-- *1 Kings 8:27-30*

God answers Solomon's prayer of dedication and renews His promise.

**9** And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished building the house of the Lord and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he wanted to do, **2** that the Lord appeared to Solomon the second time, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon. **3** And the Lord said to him: "I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. **4** Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, **5** then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.' **6** But if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, **7** then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight.

-- *1 Kings 9:1-7*

I will cast out of My sight: same word as used when speaking to Moses.

Solomon makes the opposite choice that Moses made:

**1** But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites— **2** from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. **3** And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. **4** For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. [...] **9** So the Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the Lord God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, **10** and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the Lord had commanded.

-- *1 Kings 11:1-4, 9-10*

It was the height of wealth, power, wisdom, and prosperity. It was the complete fulfilment of God's promise to give them a land overflowing with milk and honey. And all that blessing without the continued presence of God it became a blessing that they could not recover from. The nation of Israel never recovers from Solomon's reign. God promised David that his sons would always rule Israel, but only if they walked with God the way David did. God preserves the blessing for the duration of Solomon's lifetime because of His love for David, but it doesn't last any longer. Immediately the nation is divided.

They become like all the nations around them. Israel was God's justice being visited upon evil nations who worshiped idols and sacrificed children to their gods. But in the presence of blessing without God, Israel became the very evil God intended them to wipe out. And all the beautiful things that Solomon built were lost over time. The magnificent temple was ultimately destroyed. Ultimately every one of God's people were torn from their promised land and either destroyed or taken into captivity.

When Jesus the Messiah was born and brought to the temple for dedication, it was not Solomon's temple!

None of the blessings matter if you don't have the presence of God!

## Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure

- Disciples have had the closest relationship with God barring all but maybe Moses, Enoch, a select few others. But they are about to step into a dimension of relationship that none in the Old Testament had.
- During the Last Supper, after Judas Iscariot had already left. Jesus is preparing the disciples for His departure.

John 14:

**15** "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

Consider the parallel to *Exodus 32*:

**7** And the Lord said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. **8** They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!' " **9** And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people!

And *Exodus 33*:

**3** Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."

**16** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— **17** the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. **18** I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Jesus is saying all this in preparation of His coming execution: when He will have to physically leave His disciples.

Notice some things about this "Spirit of truth":

- because of this other helper "He may abide with you forever": the Father will abide with you!

So we will have the Spirit of truth and because of that, also have the Father.

- "whom the world cannot receive because it neither *sees* nor *knows*." Again, this reminds me of Moses's request! "Show me Your way that I might *know* You!" and again "Show me Your glory!" God: "OK, but you cannot see my face!."
- "but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you" Who can this Spirit of truth be if He already dwells with them? Jesus!
- In case there was any doubt: "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you!"

So all right together Jesus says:

- God the Father will send you another helper so that He (the Father) can be with you
- This helper, the Spirit of truth you already know because he is already living with you!
- I won't leave you all alone: I will come to you!

## Holy Spirit Will Lead to All Truth

**12** "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13** However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. **14** He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. **15** All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

## Fulfilment of This Promise

Acts 1:

**4** And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; **5** for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." **6** Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" **7** And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. **8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

**12** Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. **13** And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. **14** These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 2:

**1** When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. **2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

## Appeal to the Altar

I don't want to go anywhere without His presence!

Don't leave this sanctuary this morning without the presence of God!

The promises don't matter, the blessings don't matter if we don't have the presence of God!

Moses understood that the thing that made the promise land the "Promise Land" was the presence of God!

### Continued parallels between Exodus 33 and John 14:

- The Lord threatened to send Israel into the Promise Land without His presence because they did not obey His commandment (which He had given directly to the people in Exodus 20)

In John 14 Jesus said: "If you love Me, keep My commandments." In John 16:12-13 Jesus said the Spirit of truth would "guide you into *all* truth." The indwelling of the Spirit empowers us to obey His commandments!

- What was the reason Moses gave when asking that God go with them?

**16** "For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth."

Couple with other places like 1 Peter 2:9-10: God still desires that His people be set apart!

Moses seems to be saying, essentially: What's the point of inheriting the promises if we don't have Your presence? Then we'd be no different than anyone else in this world! Your presence is what sets us apart!

Why don't we have the same attitude? Lord, I don't want to be like everyone else in this world. I want to be set apart! I want Your presence more than any of the trappings of this world! How will the world know that we have the presence of God in our lives?

I'm from Austin. There's a map in the Texas Almanac that shows the percentage of religious affiliation in each county: that is, how much of the population is religious. And it uses purple for more than 50% and green for less than 50%, and the more extreme, the deeper the color. Most of the state is dark purple, more than 65% of the population is religious. There are a

number of green counties here and there, but there is this big bunch of green counties right in the middle of the state, and right in the middle of this big bunch is Travis county: Austin.

And that's only talking about whether people are religious or not: whether they belong to *any* religious denomination, not just Christianity! In most parts of Texas if you're religious, you're Christian. But not Austin. Less than half the population is religious at all. And many of those who are religious are not Christian! We've got {long list of other religions prevalent in Austin}). If all we have is the Word, what separates us from the other dozen denominations of Christians? Or other faiths? They have their holy texts too! In other words, we face the same issue that Moses faced: if we don't have the presence of God, we look just like everyone else! We look just like the world!

So much of Holiness comes down to: Lord, I desire Your presence more than all these things. Whatever I can do to draw closer to You, I will do! God hasn't given us exact rules now like He did for the Israelites under Moses. He's put His Spirit in our hearts to guide us to all truth! We set boundaries for ourselves as a way to put our obedience into action, as safeguards for when we are not in a spiritual mindset. Some of these lines are a bit arbitrary. I could argue strongly about having the line, but probably couldn't find scriptural justification for why the line is right there and not an inch more or less. It's an attitude thing!

Sometimes people look at our Holiness standards and see it as a bunch of legalism, and to be fair, sometimes we hurt people by using the holiness standards like a stick to beat people for ungodliness. Sometimes we go around: "You're drinking alcohol, you must be going to hell," or "You're not dressed right, you're going to hell." There's no holiness standard strict enough for you to earn your way into Heaven! As he was dying on the cross, a criminal, a hardened criminal who was given the death sentence--*and he felt like he deserved it!*--turned to Jesus and asked "remember me when you come into Your kingdom." He had no time to get righteous! He had no chance to live a life of holiness! But he saw Jesus, he had enough understanding to put his hope and faith in Jesus. Jesus was dying there alongside him, so he had to have some faith that Jesus was more than just a man! And he took his last opportunity to seek His presence! And that hunger, that sincere desire to be with Jesus, was enough.

**7** "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **8** For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Jesus said in Matthew 7.

○ Right attitude:

1. let Your presence go with me!
2. I love You, Lord, and I will keep your commandments!
3. The Spirit of truth guides into all truth.
4. As I grow in You, and spend time in your presence, living with Your Spirit inside of me, I learn to hear Your voice, I learn how to live a life that is pleasing to You.
5. That is why I live a life of Holiness, that is why I do all these things and don't do all these other things: because I want to be close to You! I want Your presence to go with me!

We're not the only ones who dress like we dress. We're not the only ones who live like we do. But "there's something different about those Pentecostals." It's the presence of God! We're set apart from the world, not by the promise, not by the blessings, but by His presence in our lives!

### Additional Information

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