

The Threat of Separation from God: God's Call and Warning Exodus 33:01–11

1. *Essential 1:*

Hearing God's call and God's warning

- a. God's call: To proceed on the journey to the promised land
- b. God's promise of a limited presence and limited guidance
- c. God's threat and warning: To withdraw His presence
 - 1) Because the people were stubborn and sinful
 - 2) Because He could not withhold His holy and just wrath

2. *Essential 2: Repentance*

- a. The people mourned and repented: Stripped off their jewellery
 - 1) Because of God's charge that they were stubborn and sinful
 - 2) Because of God's warning of judgment
 - 3) Because God had demanded them to repent
- b. The people obeyed: Repented

3. *Essential 3:*

Understanding that God does withdraw His presence, does chastise His people

- 1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up to the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.'"
- 2 I will send an angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.
- 3 Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way."
- 4 When the people heard these distressing words, they began to mourn and no one put on any ornaments.
- 5 For the LORD had said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites, 'You are a stiff-necked people. If I were to go with you even for a moment, I might destroy you. Now take off your ornaments and I will decide what to do with you.'"
- 6 So the Israelites stripped off their ornaments at Mount Horeb.
- 7 Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the LORD would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp.

a. Symbolized by Moses taking a tent (a worship centre) outside the camp: Concerned believers sought the Lord there

b. Moses continually went to the tent to seek the Lord

1) The people's deep concern and reverence: Rose and stood at the entrance of their tents

2) The pillar of cloud (the LORD's presence) at the entrance: The Lord talked with Moses

3) The people, deeply concerned, stood at their tent doors and worshipped

4) The LORD would speak with Moses face to face

5) When Moses returned to camp, his young aide, Joshua, would stay and pray

8 And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent.

9 As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the LORD spoke with Moses.

10 Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshipped, each at the entrance to their tent.

11 The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.