

## When God Comes Down

### EXODUS SERIES PART 25

Text: Exodus 19:10–25

The Lord said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments [do not go near a woman], and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, ‘Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.’ When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain.”

#### **Exodus 19:10–13<sup>1</sup> (ESV)**

**Big Idea:** God's Word must never be treated casually. He calls His people to reverence, holiness, and boundaries to protect what is sacred.

#### **1. “Wash your garments” (v. 10, 14) — Repentance and Renewal**

Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their garments and be ready by the third day, because on that day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. **Exodus 19:10–11**

But Uzziah... grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the Lord his God and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense... and leprosy broke out on his forehead in the presence of the priests in the house of the Lord, by the altar of incense. **2 Chronicles 26:16–21**

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord... And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died... Then Moses said, “This is what the Lord has said: ‘Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.’ And Aaron held his peace. **Leviticus 10:1–3**

And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God. **2 Samuel 6:6–7**

**So how do we “wash our garments” today? Not with water, but with repentance that shows up in real choices.**

- Confess specifically.
- Consecrate your rhythms.
- Ask the Spirit to search you.

#### **2. Do Not Go Near a Woman — Consecration and Holy Distance**

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<sup>1</sup> All scripture is ESV unless otherwise stated.

Prepare yourselves for the third day. Abstain from sexual relations. **Exodus 19:15 (NIV)**

**At Sinai, this abstinence was a lived sermon: holiness requires more than cleansing garments, it requires cleansing desires.**

- If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. (Mark 8:34).
- Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship, (Romans 12:1)
- Cleanse your hands...purify your hearts, (James 4:8).

**So how do we practice consecration and holy distance today? Not by despising good gifts, but by setting them down for a time to say, "God first."**

- Choose a fast with a purpose.
- Practice a weekly Sabbath window.

### **3. Set Limits Around the Mountain — The Holiness That Draws Boundaries**

Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, 'Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death' **Exodus 19:12 (NIV)**

- Mount Sinai: The Golden Calf (Exodus 32): *"These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."* (Exodus 32:4).
- King Saul's Presumption (1 Samuel 13:8–14): "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, He would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure." **1 Samuel 13:8–14**
- 3. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1–11): *"You have not lied just to human beings but to God"* (Acts 5:4).

**What does that look like for us?**

- Calendar boundaries.
- Body boundaries.
- Money boundaries.
- Content boundaries.
- Speech boundaries.