

## **The Season of Formation**

Romans 8:29 Mirror Translation

“For those He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the exact image of His Son.”

March 8, 2026

**Sermon Title** – **Leaving Base Camp**

**Sermon Text** – **Exodus 24:12, 15–16** **The Message**

God said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and stay here...” ... Moses climbed the mountain ... The Cloud covered the mountain ... and the Glory of God settled over Mount Sinai.

### **INTRO**

Last week – we looked at the story in Exodus where the Israelites stood at the base of Mount Sinai while the mountain was in full manifestation mode ... Thunder – lightning – a thick cloud covering the mountain top – along with the sound of a trumpet piercing through the air ... It was an incredible display of the power and presence of God.

Yet – when given the opportunity to engage with God directly – the people backed away ... They stood at a distance – observing and shuddering in fear ... They chose to remain at base camp – and asked Moses to go in their place ... This led us to explore – three possible reasons – why these folk would decline the offer to engage with God ... We looked at – fear of a divine encounter – a slave mentality that shaped how they saw God – and the desire to let someone else engage with God on their behalf.

But if you remember the story – everyone did not remain at base camp ... While the people shuddered in fear – Moses accepted the invitation – “Come up to Me on the mountain” ... Catch this – the manifestations occurring on the mountain – were seen and heard by everyone – yet Moses was the only one who chose to respond to the invitation ... Why is that?

Before I answer that question ... Let me debunk a false religious perception ... Many people tend to look at these Old Testament saints – as if they were some-kind of super hero ... As if they were different from you or me ... As if they were special or had some kind of special calling or anointing ... That is a false religious ideology that needs to be sent packing ... Moses was a human being – no different than you or me ... The only difference was he was born at a different point on this earthly timeline than us ... So, this morning – I want us to look at three possible reasons why someone would choose to ascend the mountain.

### **They Possess a Unique Curiosity for Spiritual Things**

#### **Exodus 3:2–4 Message**

“The angel of God appeared to him in flames of fire - blazing out of the middle of a bush ... He looked ... The bush was blazing away but it didn’t burn up ... 3 Moses said, “What’s going on here? ... I can’t believe this! ... Amazing! ... Why doesn’t the bush burn up?” ... 4 God saw that he had stopped to look ... God called to him from out of the bush, - “Moses! - - Moses!” ... He said, “Yes? ... I’m right here!”

Long before Moses ever stood at the base of Mount Sinai – something powerful had already occurred in his life ... Moses had witnessed a spiritual manifestation at the burning bush ... Notice what the text says ... “Moses saw something unusual – and instead of ignoring it – he stopped and turned aside to look” ... Catch this – at that moment – something began to stir inside of him ... There was a curiosity arising within ... He desired to look into what he was witnessing ... And that curiosity would end up radically impacting his life.

Spirituality and mysticism – were already a major part of the culture back in those days ... That wasn’t new to Moses – but what was new – I believe was a personal encounter with the supernatural ... I believe that the text bears out – that Moses engaged with a Seraphim – a fiery angel of the Lord ... This encounter directly opened his awareness and sparked his curiosity ... So –

by this time Moses stood at the foot of Mt. Sinai – he was fully open and eager to engage again with the Almighty and Great – I Am.

### **Spiritual Nugget**

Spiritual manifestations are designed to awaken you – to your true nature ... You are a spirit being – sent here by the Almighty – I Am ... And if you allow the event to truly awaken you – then a curiosity will arise on the inside – a desire to understand and go deeper into the things of the spirit ... Moses allowed his experiences with God to spark curiosity – to deepen his understanding ... In contrast – it is apparent that those who remained at base camp – allowed the spiritual manifestations to spark fear – which further deepened their misunderstanding ... This leads us to the next reason why some people choose to ascend the mountain.

### **They Refuse to Follow the Cultural Mindset of their Day**

#### **Exodus 20:21 The Voice**

But everyone remained far away from the mountain - - - as Moses began moving toward the thick, dark cloud - where God was.

This verse reveals something very interesting about this event taking place at Mount Sinai ... The entire camp had already come to the same conclusion ... They had collectively decided that approaching God directly was dangerous – so they remained at a distance ... What we discover here – is that there was a prevailing mindset – or a cultural conscious – that was established in the camp ... Everyone believed the same thing – which caused them to interrupt the manifestations they were experiencing in the same manner ... This collective mindset – this group think – this cultural consciousness – caused them all to come to the same conclusion – stay back to avoid harm.

### **Spiritual Nugget**

A collective mindset – or cultural conscious can be a bad thing as we saw in the riot at Ephesus in Acts 19 ... Or a good thing when we examine the great spiritual revivals throughout history

#### **Matthew 18:19 Weymouth**

“If two of you on earth - - - **are in perfect harmony in asking anything whatever**, - - - it will be done for them – by My Father in heaven.”

While the people allowed their harmonious mindset – to keep them in fear of the Almighty – I AM – Moses chose to respond differently ... Instead of stepping back with the crowd – Moses stepped forward toward the cloud of God’s presence ... His action reveals something important about those who leave base camp and ascend the mountain ... They refuse to allow the collective mindset or ideology around them – to determine how they will respond to God ... Those who ascend are willing to step outside the collective – group-think of the crowd – in order to personally engage with the presence of God ... And when someone is willing to go against the norm – another motivation begins to emerge that compels them to continue the journey upward.

### **They Are Instinctively Drawn by the Awe and Wonder of the Divine**

#### **Psalm 34:8 Passion Translation**

“Drink deeply of the pleasures of this God ... Experience for yourself the joyous mercies He gives to all who turn to hide themselves in Him.”

By this point in Moses’ life – something on the inside of him had radically awakened ... There was now an awe and wonder in his spirit for the things of God – like never before ... Once you have experienced for yourself – His mercies and wonders – something unlocks and deepens inside ... A curiosity to experience more begins to grow ... A desire to drink deeply of His pleasures begins to form ... You get excited in those special moments when you hear the Spirit softly whisper – Come.

#### **Spiritual Nugget**

There is something thrilling and exciting about the things of the spirit – that this world can never reproduce ... People are constantly chasing after the things this world has to offer – hoping to find purpose – destiny – success – and pleasure ... People indulge in alcohol – drugs – sexual pleasures – seeking that fulfillment – that can only come from the Spirit ... We are

spirit being – yet people seek fulfillment through natural means ... And then they wonder why – they can't find what they are looking for ... Once a person truly experiences and tastes the goodness and pleasures of God – there is no turning back ... It is so much better and distinct from any pleasures this world has to offer.

### **TAKE AWAY**

So let me conclude with this ... We are about to embark on the wildest journey you could ever imagine ... A journey where we will climb the mountain – so to speak – and enter into His divine presence ... And when a person truly encounters the presence of God – their life will never be the same.

When Moses came down from the mountain – his face was glowing because he had been in the presence of the Lord ... The journey we are about to begin is designed to awaken and form your spirit man so that you can carry His presence ... And as His presence begins to shape you on the inside – it will begin transforming what is seen on the outside ... conforming you into the exact image of His Son.

But before that can happen – I must ask you a question ... Are you willing to leave base camp and do what it takes to climb the mountain? ... Or will you remain at base camp – partying and worshipping the golden calf of this world? ... As we leave this morning – let me share with you the words of the wisest man who ever walked this earth – Solomon ... A man who literally experienced everything this world has to offer.

### **Ecclesiastes 2:10 Amplified Bible**

“Whatever my eyes desired – I did not keep from them – I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure.”

### **Ecclesiastes 12:13 NLT**

“That’s the whole story ... Here now is my final conclusion ... Fear God and obey His commands ... for this is everyone’s duty.”