

# Lenten Devotional 2020

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Day 24, Exodus 24

## **Dinner With God**

*But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank. (Exodus 24:11)*

Can you imagine receiving a dinner invitation with God? That's what is happening in chapter 24. God invites Moses, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu (Aaron's sons), and 70 of the elders of Israel. When the action plays out later this group is allowed to see God—even if they only get as far as his feet. This is pretty incredible. And, as the quote above tells us, they lived, ate, and drank. Dinner with God.

I think this could be a helpful way for us to think about our worship. So often I find myself thinking about worship as something I do. I sing, or pray, or preach. God remains distant, and honestly, often forgotten. When I do think about God, worship is something that I'm projecting to him without any real sense of connection.

But, what if worship is more like the Exodus picture. We are invited by God to join him—to come closer. We are given the tools we need to worship—we are made right with him. We are enabled to glimpse him—his nature and character. And, then, we are able to be with him—he creates the context of hospitality. This isn't about giving him something—he needs nothing from us. This is about being with God and it's all grace.

Perhaps this is why some of the best worship structure is patterned on movements that begin with us being distant from God. After all we have been away from each other and God, in the world. So, we need to be regathered together and into the presence of God. The call to worship is essential as we gather. Then, confession, repentance, and pardon. The gospel re-members us as God's people. Then, we hear from God. Then, our response and sending. A journey into our worship time with God and a journey back into our everyday lives.

No wonder one of Jesus's parables about the kingdom centred around a banquet. Invitation, preparation, arrival, meal, fellowship, and departure. Our worship today is a foretaste of that great banquet to come.

## **Prayer**

Father, thank you for calling us to worship. Help us to love spending time with you and to be intentional about the way we approach this. Amen.