

THE VOICE OF THE MASTER

Part I

Text: Exodus 34:1-24

Key Word: Voice

Key Thought: We All Need to Carefully Hear the Voice of God

The ability to clearly hear what is being spoken is a wonderful gift that we can often take for granted. Those who have had difficulties in the past are greatly appreciative of the advancing technology to aid in their daily challenge.

*** There is now the first patented universal natural GelSoft, silicone, self-fitting, hypo-allergenic, professional quality, digital preprogrammed hearing aid that can be delivered direct to your door with no hearing test required. Background noise suppression allows for maximum speech understanding and voice detail. Other hearing aids are made of hard acrylic plastic that can be very uncomfortable and result in allergic reactions for some people. ***

How much more important is it to hear the voice of God? God designed us with ears that will not only hear, but **spiritual ears** to clearly hear His voice.

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Revelation 2:7, 11,17, 29, 3:6,13,22

When Isaiah was calling out to the remnant of the nation of Israel to understand what God’s purpose was for their existence he wrote,

*“Listen to me, you islands; hear this you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name . . .
6. He says: Is it too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.”*

Isaiah 49:1,6

Why must We Hear the Voice of Our Master Today?

I. BECAUSE HE SETS CLEAR BOUNDARIES (Exodus 34:1-7)

II. BECAUSE HE SETS COMMANDING DIRECTIONS (Exodus 34:10-17)

III. BECAUSE HE SETS REDEEMING CELEBRATIONS (Exodus 34:18-24)

I. BECAUSE HE SETS CLEAR BOUNDARIES (Exodus 34:1-7)

Boundaries are important in a well-balanced life. God thinks so. That is why He gave the 10 Commandments to the children of Israel. Even though the first set of tablets were smashed into pieces, God had Moses chisel out a second set of stone tablets before He once again engraved His words upon it (Exodus 34:1).

The reason why our secular society has opposed these commandments so vehemently is because they ARE so clear in their expectations. No one can say, “*I don’t understand what God means by these 10 commandments.*” **Most people don’t have problems with “unclear” portions of Scripture, it is rather the parts they do understand that bother them.**

When God was placing His finger on the stone tablets, He warned Moses not to allow anyone to be on the mountain when this process was taking place. Not even the flocks or herds were allowed to graze from Mount Sinai during this time (Exodus 34:3). There were clear boundaries set into place **in what became known as the MOUNTAIN OF FEAR AND OF JOY (Read Hebrews 12:18-21)**. God not only set a distinct boundary firmly into place – **He Himself became that boundary.** No one was allowed to bypass God and His Word.

“Just as homeowners set physical property lines around their land, we need to set mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual boundaries for our lives to help us distinguish what is our responsibility and what is not. **The inability to set appropriate boundaries at appropriate times with the appropriate people can be very destructive.**”

Dr. Henry Cloud
Dr. John Townsend
“*Boundaries*”
Zondervan, 1995, p. 7

People who attempt to go through life without heeding the voice of God in specific areas of their lives end up destroying their lives and bringing much pain to those around them. God will not be mocked – we will reap what we sow (Galatians 6:6,7). So the problem is not always that BOUNDARIES ARE NOT SET – it is due to the fact that BOUNDARIES ARE NOT RESPECTED and those who break them are not punished. Even though the Lord is “*slow to anger, abounding in love . . . forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin*” (Exodus 34:6,7), He also does not leave the guilty unpunished (Exodus 34:7).

II. BECAUSE HE SETS COMMANDING DIRECTIONS (Exodus 34:10-17)

It is one thing for God to tell us where not to go in a certain direction but, it is equally important that He tells where we should go. There are so many people heading in the wrong direction. It may not appear to be a problem until the day of awakening shocks them into reality.

*** In November 1975, 75 convicts started digging a secret tunnel designed to bring them up at the other side of the wall of Saltillo Prison in northern Mexico. On April 18, 1976, guided by pure genius, they tunneled up into the nearby courtroom in which many of them had been sentenced. The surprised judges returned all 75 to jail. ***

“Campus Life”
September, 1980

“The male’s inability to ask directions is genetic. That’s the reason why it takes 500,000,000 sperm to fertilize one egg. None would bother to stop and ask directions.”

Source Unknown

I appreciate the fact that the LORD told the people,

“I am making a covenant with you.”

Exodus 34:10

God’s covenants contained not only “**Clear Boundaries**” but also “**Commanding Directions.**” Clearly in this case the two went hand in hand. God’s covenants have always been a call to action. His direction was to instill a clear boundary to the opposing nations. The children of Israel were to drive out the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

There are times in our lives when the direction we need to take will require us to separate from people as well as turning away from previous actions. Not only were the Israelites told that the Lord would “drive out” the previous inhabitants (with the help of the Israelites), they were also told to remove any remaining influence from their lives. **THE IDOLS HAD TO GO. THE TREATIES HAD TO BE NULLIFIED. THE MIXED MARRIAGES HAD TO END.**

Those were very commanding directions. Not easy to follow. But definitely commanding. I don’t believe that we serve a vague God when it comes to His instructions. He’s not like the psychics who leave enough room to drive an 18 wheeler through their so-called prophecies. When God speaks we should have no doubt in the direction He wishes us to take.

III. BECAUSE HE SETS REDEEMING CELEBRATIONS (Exodus 34:18-24)

Our God not only sets boundaries and directions, He also loves it when His people celebrate. I love it when we celebrate. We can celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, Valentines Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Canada Day, Labour Day, Remembrance Day, Christmas and New Years.

In our churches we need to celebrate important milestones that have taken place. Sometimes I wish I was born as an Israelite because of the many feasts and celebrations that they remember.

Celebration/Feast	Biblical Text	Time
Sabbath	<i>Exodus 20:8-11</i>	Every 7 th Day
Sabbath Year	<i>Exodus 23:10-11</i>	Every 7 th Year
Year of Jubilee	<i>Leviticus 25:8-55</i>	Every 50 th Year
Passover	<i>Exodus 12:1-14</i>	Every 1 st Month (Abid) 14
Unleavened Bread	<i>Exodus 12:15-20</i>	Every 1 st Month (Abid) 15-21
Firstfruits	<i>Leviticus 23:9-14</i>	Every 1 st Month (Abid) 16
Weeks (Pentecost/Harvest)	<i>Leviticus 23:15-21</i>	Every 3 rd Month (Sivan) 6
Trumpets (New Years Day)	<i>Leviticus 23:23-25</i>	Every 7 th Month (Tishri) 1
Day of Atonement	<i>Leviticus 16</i>	Every 7 th Month (Tishri) 10
Tabernacles (Booths)	<i>Numbers 29:12-34</i>	Every 7 th Month (Tishri) 15-21
Sacred Assembly	<i>Numbers 29:35-38</i>	Every 7 th Month (Tishri) 22
Purim	<i>Esther 9:18-32</i>	Every 12 th Month (Adar) 14,15

In our text we find that Moses highlighted 4 important times of the year. He begins with the **Feast of Unleavened Bread** and quickly moves to the **Feast of Firstfruits**. In the midst of it he highlighted the importance of the **weekly Sabbath** and then he moved on **the Feast of Weeks/Pentecost/Harvest**.

III. BECAUSE HE SETS REDEEMING CELEBRATIONS (Exodus 34:18-24)

Misery Dinner

*** Author Leo Buscaglia tells this story about his mother and their “**misery dinner.**” It was the night after his father came home and said it looked as if he would have to go into bankruptcy because his partner had absconded (run off) with their firm’s funds.

His mother went out and sold some jewelry to buy food for a sumptuous feast. Other members of the family scolded her for it. But she told them that “*the time for joy is now, when we need it most, not next week.*” Her courageous act rallied the family. ***

Christopher News Notes
August, 1993

God knew that the children of Israel would need times to **celebrate the blessings of their past and the hope of their future.** Celebrations bring us back to the fact that God has not forsaken us in the midst of trouble.

The Jewish celebrations all centre around victories over difficult situations. It was either freedom from the hands of Egyptians slavery; restoring of their land and setting slaves free; recognizing that winter had past and it was time to sow seed for the harvest; once the hard task of the harvest was completed; then past sins were Atoned for another year. Then they were reminded of their 40 year trek through the wilderness and finally it caused them to remember God’s protection from the evil edict of Haman.

We need to celebrate in the midst of our difficulties. I believe it has a redeeming quality to it. Its been said that . . . “Joy shared is doubled joy”

*** Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., was a member of the U.S. Supreme Court for 30 years. His mind, wit and work earned him the unofficial title of “*the greatest justice since John Marshall.*” At one point in his life, Justice Holmes explained his choice of a career by saying: “*I might have entered the ministry if certain clergymen I knew had not looked and acted so much like undertakers.*” ***

Moody Bible Institute’s
“*Today In The Word*”
June, 1988, p. 13

C:\My Documents\WPWin(21)\Sermons.2024\The Master\Exodus 34_1.24.wpd

Date: Sept 15/24 (The Big Give) Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Jesus Lover of My Soul (It's All About You) - D

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INTRODUCTION: Revelation 2:7, 11,17, 29, 3:6,13,22; Isaiah 49:1,6

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Hebrews 12:18-21; Galatians 6:6,7; Exodus 34:6,7

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