



March 2, 2025

Kevin Sneed

Exodus 40:34-38

Introduction

This week CPC explores the conclusion of Exodus. Pastor Kevin Sneed emphasizes that the real treasure isn't what we give up to follow God, but what we give up in not following God – God's presence itself. Today, we will discuss how modern Christians can practice being aware of and inviting God's presence into all aspects of life.

Key Texts:

Matthew 13:44; Exodus 40:33-38; Psalm 27

Icebreaker

Can you think of a time when you desired something so much that you saved for a long time or even sold something valuable to get it? What was it, and why was it so important to you?

Discussion Questions

- 1. Read Matthew 13:44 together as a group.** In what ways would you say that your faith or walk with Jesus has been costly in your life? Were there things you feel you had to give up, and how did that make you feel?
- 2.** Much is often made of the “cost of discipleship” or the cost of following Jesus, but this week, we were encouraged to ask a different question: what is the cost of non-discipleship? Put another way, what is the cost of not following Jesus in your life? Is it more than just salvation? What do you think?
- 3.** For Moses, the presence of God with the people was mission critical. In Exodus 33:15-16, Moses spoke to God saying, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your

people from all the other people on the face of the earth?” Share about a moment in your life when you were profoundly aware of the presence of God (or the absence of God)? How did that make a difference for you in that season?

4. **Read Exodus 40:33-38 together as a group.** This passage paints a picture of a community of God’s people wholly reliant on the presence of God, walking in step with Him in everything: where and how they lived from day to day were completely dependent on Him. God doesn’t send pillars of cloud and fire today, so what does it look like for modern day Christians to follow and journey with God? Where do you think the Holy Spirit might fit in a modern parallel?
5. **Read Psalm 27 together as a group.** Pay particular attention to how the Psalm ends in v.14. What do you think it means or looks like to “wait for the Lord?” What are some ways you may sense God is nudging you to seek His presence, to be strong, take heart, and wait for Him?”

“In the early time of our ‘practicing’ we may well be challenged by our burdensome habits of dwelling on things less than God. But these are habits – not the law of gravity – and can be broken... A new, grace-filled habit will replace the former ones as we take intentional steps toward keeping God before us. Soon our minds will return to God as the needle of a compass constantly returns to the north. If God is the great longing of our souls, He will become the pole star of our inward beings.”

-Dallas Willard

6. Reflect on the Willard quote above. Put another way, “You become what you contemplate.” What are some areas where you feel challenged to change your habits of contemplation? What are the “lesser things” of your life that receive too much of your time/talent/treasure that could be replaced by the presence of God in your life?
7. This week, Pastor Kevin Sneed encouraged us to lean into the presence of God in four ways: Begin by inviting God into your life, Be with God, Speak with God, and Reflect on God. What do you think he meant? Which of those come most naturally to you? Which of those are hardest for you? Why?

8. How would you like your Community Group to help challenge you and encourage you to be more present with God?

Key Takeaways

God's presence is available in all aspects of life, not just in 'spiritual' moments.
The real treasure is not what we give up to follow God, but God's presence itself.
Practicing awareness of God's presence requires intentional habits and redirection.
We become like what we contemplate, so fixing our attention on God transforms us.

Notes