

Intro:

Main Point of Text: The Israelites' sins cause God to remove Himself from them, but their repentance brings His return.

Sermon Point: *Repentance Restores You.*

Move 1: When you repent, closeness with God and others will be restored to you.

After God distanced Himself from the people, He responds favorably to their godly sorrow, requests for grace, and real reverence for Him and his minister: vss. 5b, 9-10a, 11, 14, 17. God staying on the edge of the Church's Camp mercifully offers restoration upon their repentance. Isa. 65:24; Ezek. 18:23, 32; 33:11; 2 Pet. 3:9; Acts 3:19; 5:31; Mat 5:3-4.

Move 2: Repentance is needed, because sin creates distance between you, God, and His people.

The people's lack of repentance until now kept distancing God and Moses from them: vss. 1-3, 5a, 7, 8-10 (juxtaposition of different tent openings), 11b. 1 Jn. 1:8-10; Mk. 1:4; Acts 2:38; 3:19; Rom 2:4; 2 Cor. 5:20.

Move 3: Your heart radically changes toward God and His people when you repent unto life.

The people's hearts ached over offending God and driving Him away; Moses expressed their heart for God: vss. 4a, 12-13, 15-16. Real repentance never takes gifts without God: 2 Cor. 7:10. Lk. 13:3. Ps. 73:21-28.

Move 4: When you really repent, you are drawn to God and His people by a different lifestyle.

The Israelites no longer danced around the Golden Calf, nor ran from Moses, but stood still and waited upon God with reverence and their minister with respect: vss. 4b, 6, 7b, 9a, 10. Matt. 3:8; 2 Tim. 2:19.

Move 5: Without repentance, you would never have a reconciled life with God and His people.

Chapter 32: people were spared, but not restored; in 33, God removes Himself from their immediate presence, as does Moses. Restoration and reconciliation only begin when repentance happens and is observed in this chapter. James 4:8. Mat 24:30. Heb. 12:17. Jn. 8:21, 24. **Heb 13:11-13**. Psalm 51:10-12.

Conclusion:

Repentance Restores You.