God's Presence 8 May 2011

Exodus 32:30-33:17

- I. God gets Israel's attention
 - A. Breaking of the tablets
 - B. Massacre by the Levites, plague
 - C. A sign of submission and penitence: taking off their ornaments
- II. You will have my blessing, but not me
 - A. This is essentially a parting of ways
 - B. He will send an angel with them, but not himself
 - C. This is a "disastrous" message
 - D. Reason: the people are stiff-necked, and God's presence would be dangerous to them!
- III. Moses meets with God outside the camp
 - A. Note: not the Tent
 - B. A place of exclusion
 - C. A place of witness
 - D. Moses meets with God
- IV. Moses' plea before God
 - A. This is not the first time
 - B. Moses' prayer
 - C. Crux of the passage: verses 14-15
 - i. I will go with you.
 - ii. I want you, and not just your blessings. Even if you take every blessing, we are yours.
- V. Examine yourselves (cf. 2 Corinthians 13:5)
 - A. Many of us want God's blessings, fewer want God.
 - B. Do you love God only for his blessings?
 - C. If God removed from you the blessings you enjoy, will you love him?
 - D. Are you willing to say what Moses says? If you will not be with me in an experiential way, you can take every blessing from me.
 - E. Are we genuinely willing to lose every earthly blessing in order to gain God?
 - F. If you love God for his blessings, not himself, you are an idolater. (Revelation 3:15-16)
 - G. Put off your ornaments.
- VI. The heart of salvation
 - A. God giving himself to us, and us giving ourselves to God.
 - B. This is why Jesus came (1 Peter 3:18; Matthew 11:28)