

Bible Summary - Acts 2

Pentecost

The Bible is divided into the Old and New Testaments and this division often confuses people into believing that the God of the Old is angry and Jesus, God the Son, is nice. The truth is God is the same and His desires are unchanged. Pentecost is an example of this unchanged desire by God to be with His people. Pentecost memorializes the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai. Jesus specifically tells His disciples to wait for the giving of the Spirit and it happens on Pentecost. This was not coincidence and is demonstrating God's desire to dwell with His people. Reading the Old Testament account of the arrival at Mt. Sinai before the giving of the law reveals that God invited His people to join with Him on the mountain but they refused and then the law was given. It was the refusal of the people to meet God that brought about the law which Galatians 3 would be seen as parenthesis for God's true desire to dwell with a people through faith.

Scriptures: Acts 2:1-4; Genesis 26:5; Deuteronomy 6:4; Exodus 19:1-25, 40:34-5; Galatians 3:19; Hebrews 4:16; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 3:15; Revelation 3:12; Genesis 2:7

Bible Questions and Application

(These are here as an aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** question listed.)

1. God blesses those who obey (shama) His voice (Exodus 19:5). How do we hear God's voice today?
2. Exodus 19:13 actually is an invitation by God for the people to go up on the mountain to meet with God. The people freaked out and didn't go. Can you describe a time you were confident God was prompting you to do something but you were afraid to obey?
 - a. What are some ways to overcome that in the future?
3. What does a healthy fear of God look like?
4. Why is it that we as Christians tend to think that God still sees us in our sins instead of through His eyes of grace?
5. How does how we see God affect our prayer life?
6. What does our identity in Christ mean to you? (Exodus 19:5,6)
 - a. How does claiming a biblical understanding of our identity in Christ help you live more confidently?
7. If we really believed we were a royal citizen of heaven, how would it strengthen us against sin?
8. If we know He is good and that we can trust Him, why don't we?

A few weeks ago Matt challenged each of us to be able to share the gospel in 60 seconds or less. Have you practiced doing that in the group? Or have you had an opportunity to share the gospel recently?