

# Presence//1-Awe//Exodus 19:10-20

---

revor Atwood: <sup>19:9</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever.” <sup>10</sup> ...And the Lord said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments <sup>11</sup> and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. <sup>12</sup> And you shall set limits for the people all round, saying, ‘Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. <sup>13</sup> And when you put him to death, no hand can touch him; he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.’

When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain.”

<sup>15</sup> On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. <sup>17</sup> Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain.

<sup>18</sup> Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. <sup>19</sup> And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. <sup>20</sup> The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and so Moses went up.

Prayer: Need help.

For those of you with short term memories (which is most of us) I'll remind you that we studied the first half of the book of Exodus last summer. One of the things I showed you was that in the 1<sup>st</sup> 18 or so chapters, there's non-stop action—it's like a good movie: Moses is mistreated as a child and grows up and murders somebody; rabid frogs take over Egypt; people get boils; death angels escape from Azkhaban and kill a bunch of people...

But then they get to chapter 19 and the whole tone of the book changes. For the next 20 or so chapters in Exodus you have God revealing Himself in pictures, laws, discussions with Moses...

**But this has been the whole point of the book of Exodus:** God was bringing Israel out of slavery so that they might know Him. Everybody gets it wrong in the movies. In the movies, Moses always says, in a deep, Charlton Heston voice, “Let my people go,” but in reality (first, not in Charlton Heston voice but it says Moses wasn't a good speaker so a little mousy voice) what he said was “God says, ‘Let me people go, that they might worship me.’” The whole point of the Exodus was not just to be delivered from slavery, but to be delivered up to know God. It's not just what you're saved out of, but what you are saved unto. So we're beginning a study today on those 20 chapters about knowing and experiencing the presence of God.

Well, here in chapter 19 God begins the process of really revealing Himself. **It's a pretty scare scene:** loud lightning & thunder; an earthquake; this trumpet sound blowing out of nowhere that just got louder and louder. They were told to put up a perimeter around the mountain with God's warning that if anybody so much as touched the other side of it with their toe they'd be struck dead.

Think about it for a minute what it would have been like to have been there. Your kids are scared; you are scared. It is explained to you that if you or anybody or even your animals gets too close to this mountain they'll be struck dead...

here is a reason the scene begins this way. God is setting the tone or how they will relate to Him. He's introducing Himself.

**What is their reaction?** <sup>16</sup> ...all the people in the camp trembled and v. 9) they believed.

here's the point I'm going to try and make today: God is a God that is so massively awesome that if you ever really see Him, you tremble with awe.

**and here is going to be my question for you today: Does our response to God match His awesome immensity?** I'm going to try and show you that, for most of us, it does not, and that's because we've never really seen Him.

so, first, let me show you **how He reveals His immensity in His chapter: 3 ways.**

**1) Through awesome displays of nature (v. 16).** Earthquake, lightning...

certain manifestations of creation give us a sense of the majesty of God. **Psalm 19** says that the heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above demonstrates the skill of His handiwork; **Romans 1:20** says that in the immensity and beauty and complexity of creation that we see the eternal power of God.

One of the healthiest things you can ever do (whether you are a believer or not) is just walk outside on a clear night, look up at the stars, and think about the incredible size of creation.

I heard a pastor named Francis Chan explain this recently and I thought it was pretty incredible (Or, could use: *If the distance between the sun and the earth were the thickness of one piece of paper; then the distance between earth and the closest star would be a stack of paper 70 feet high; the distance across our galaxy would be a stack of paper 310 miles high; our galaxy is but a speck of dust.*)

- **CHAN VIDEO IMAGES. How'd he get those pictures? Did he fly all the way out there? Talk about jet lag.**
- That's when you look through a telescope; then, when you look through a microscope, it's just as mind-blowing... the incredible detail and complexity and beauty of creation. (These also from Francis Chan<sup>1</sup>)
  - One DNA strand, invisible to the human eye, contains information equivalent to 1000 500-page books
  - If you had a teaspoon of DNA, you could have all the information for all the proteins for all the species of organisms that have ever lived, plus, enough room left over for the information in all the books in the world!<sup>2</sup>
  - Your brain can contain 100 trillion facts and can process 15K decisions per second (to run your digestive tract, etc)
  - Caterpillar has 228 separate and distinct muscles in its head. That's a lot for a bug.
  - Your own heart generates enough pressure as it pumps blood through your body that it could squirt blood 30 feet. (I wouldn't try and verify that, by the way)
  - Spiders produce three kinds of silk. When they build their webs, they create sixty feet of silk in one hour, simultaneously producing special oil on their feet that prevents them from sticking to their own web. (Most of us hate spiders, but when you can spin out something 4 times your body length out of your rear end every single minute... that deserves some respect)
  - And sometimes, you look at creation and just see the senseless complexity in it... In the Amazon jungle, there are 3,000 different species of trees within one square mile. God didn't have to do that, He was just showing off.
  - Or how about this: **Why did God create so many kinds of laughter?** You have the loud laugh, the silent

<sup>1</sup> Francis Chan, *Crazy Love*, 27.

<sup>2</sup> Lee Strobel quoting Michael Denton in *Case for the Creator*, 220.

shoulder heaving laugh, the wheezing laugh, the obnoxious laugh... how many of you are snorters? That was God just showing off.

- **It is no wonder the enemy in our culture the enemy assaults the doctrine of creation.** He's done everything He can to rip it out of schools. When you lose the sense of awe about creation, you lose a major window into the beauty and immensity of our God. (However, as belief in evolution has gone up, belief in God has creator has not. Because there is something in our spirit that makes us instinctively know that there is no way that nothing x nobody = everything.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment that God is going to give to the people of Israel is that they should make no images of Him; quite simply because there is nothing they could compare Him to that would not lessen Him! **He is a God you literally can't exaggerate!**

<sup>nd</sup> way is **(2) By giving them a glimpse of His absolute holiness (vv. 0–13).**

- V. 10, he tells them to wash everything. Not a trace of defilement can be on them. But even then, you can't touch this mountain. And if you do, you must immediately be put to death; and, when the people put you to death, they have to do so in a way that they don't touch you.
- You think, Is this a little over the top? But you can't help but get the point: **God's holiness is no joke.**
- We tend to see our own imperfections (and sin in general) very casually. But God's holiness is so immense that He cannot tolerate even the slightest amount of sin. And that may seem a little ridiculous until you think about what sin is.
  - First, you see, sin is like a disease, and sin has led to all the tragedy, heartache, destruction that we see. Think about the most tragic things you hear about... things that turn your stomach and you say, "How could this happen?" When you hear about the rape and murder of a small child; the pain of adultery, divorce, and

abandoned children; the cruelty that results from unbridled greed; the genocides of Rwanda, the Sudan. those are all just symptoms of the disease of sin. You may not be guilty of some of those things, but you have the disease that leads to them. When you go to the doctor and they determine that you have a little bit of the disease of cancer in your body, immediately they go to war on it, using even violent treatments like radioactive chemotherapy... even if you are not showing any symptoms of cancer yet. God hates sin because it destroys everything beautiful.

- Second, sin's root is rebellion to the authority and centrality of God. Sin is a flagrant assault on God's majesty; it is cosmic treason of the highest order, and it cannot be tolerated.
  - Or to change the metaphor... Cold milk... urine. 97%A!
- God is holy. When Isaiah records seeing God, the angels are saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy..." In Hebrew, when you say something 3 times, that is like saying, "Ultimate holiness. Absolute perfection. Holy, Holy, Holy: He could not be more holy or more perfect. And when the prophet of God saw Himself in the light of God's holiness, he said, "Woe is me, for am completely ruined." It was like one of those **black lights** that suddenly reveals all the imperfections on your skin you can't see with the naked eye. When we stand in God's holiness suddenly we realize how completely and utterly saturated we are with sin.
  - People talk so flippantly about God. God told Moses in these chapters that nobody could, look directly at His face and even live. **You realize what that means?** If God suddenly in the middle of this message ripped the roof off of this place and we all looked up into His face we'd all die.

**(3) By reminding them of their awesome salvation (vv. 4–5):** We didn't read this a moment ago... But look at what he said back in vs. 4

You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.<sup>5</sup> Now therefore, you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession.

- He told them, think about how I took you out of the jaws of the most powerful nation on earth. Think about how I revealed my power on your behalf over creation in the plagues; think about how I opened the Red Sea to let you walk through and then closed it behind you on top of the entire Egyptian army and made them disappear from the face of the earth. **Think about the care, the concern, the love, and the power** I have demonstrated for you.
- To us He says, think about the love I demonstrated for you when I pursued you to the cross; when He took our shame on Himself and hung naked in our place; when He took our insults and mockery; when we spit in His face and we put nails through his arms and legs and ripped the flesh off of His body.
- Think about how I pursued you and taught you to believe in me...
- We were His (as vs. 5 says) His **precious**, treasured possession... when something is precious to you, you'd give up everything to obtain it. If I found out one of my daughters had a disease and there was only one medicine that could cure them and without it they would surely die but the doctor told me that insurance wouldn't pay for it and it was extremely expensive, without even a second thought I would sell all that I had to get that medicine because my daughters are precious to me. You ever think that that's what God means when He says you are His treasured possession? The God who had everything gave it all up and died a horrible death on the cross because YOU were precious to Him.

#### **his is how God introduces Himself.**

- Again, what would that have been like... What is that noise? The fire? Fresh in their minds was what happened at the Red

Sea where God saved them from certain death... Their reaction: (v. 16) they trembled; and (v. 9) they believed.

Here's my question today: **Does your response to God match His awesome immensity?**

**I will give you 3 ways that our lives do not match His awesome immensity**

#### **1. Doubted revelation**

- The result of this was they trembled and believed. You say, "Duh...Who wouldn't?" But think about this: In the next few chapters God was going to tell them many things about Himself that would blow their minds; some things that would completely turn their thinking upside down; and some things that would genuinely offend them morally and be hard to understand. But you don't see them saying, "Well, God, we like this part over here, but that... not so much. We're going to believe what you say about this issue... but on this issue, that's just offensive." No, after this display, you can't really do that.
- There is something we do that makes no sense: it's when we think we can tell God what we agree with and what we disagree with about what He reveals about Himself. People say, "I believe in Jesus, or I believe in God and the parts of the Bible that talk about... homosexuality; hell; the cross... (different societies: Westerners have a problem with sexual ethics; Muslims have a problem with God as Trinity; God becoming man; Jesus' forgiving woman at the well.) **Everybody's got problems with God**, so we say, "I'll take this, but not that.
- Do you realize how ridiculous that is? Either God has revealed Himself or He has not.
  - A lot of times we say, "so and so is a Bible-believing Christian"... as if there were any other kind! There's people who believe what God says about Himself, and then there's people that reject it.

- Listen, I can understand people who disbelieve. I understand non-Christians who say, “Jesus is not who He said He was. He was a phony and a fraud. So I reject all this stuff.” That makes sense. What does not make sense is people who say they believe God and then appoint themselves the judge of what He says about Himself and critique various parts of His revelation. You might say you’re a Christian, but you function like an atheist. You’re not submitted to the revelation of God; you have made yourself the judge of God and His revelation.
- **The question you have to ask is, “Is this the revelation of God?”** If it is, then you cannot make it subject to the judgments of your reason. Of course there are things in it that will blow your mind. It’s about God. Remember His size?
  - French mathematician: 3 dimensional God passing through 2 dimensional plain
  - If your mind is the size of a soda can, and if God is the size of the ocean, then it would be stupid for me to say He is only the small amount I can fit into my little can.
  - I have a challenge for you, and I’m serious. A number of you have these things you don’t want to believe about God. Get a sheet of paper and just write out what you think God should be like. Write out the rules... You are an adult... do that. Rather than just pot-shotting at various things... I like this... I don’t like that, I don’t agree with that. Write out a few paragraphs, and look back over it; here’s what you’ll see. You’ll see that what you want is to be God yourself. Are you at least open to God blowing your mind? If not, give up the search... because all you’re doing is looking into the mirror for a reflection of yourself you can call God.
- You’re like, “But I have questions I can’t explain. I can’t understand why God let my child die of leukemia or why He let my husband leave me or why He hasn’t answered my prayer to get married or why God hasn’t prospered me? Would it really have hurt God to do these things for me?”

- I understand... and sometimes God doesn’t answer our question, He just shows you His immensity and His love and says “for now, you must trust me.”
- Guys, there are still so many things I do not understand...
- **We want explanation, we get revelation. We want reasons, we get presence. We want answers, we get Jesus. (2x)**

## **2. Lethargic worship** Again, “They trembled.”

- Sometimes, in passages like this one, you catch a glimpse of the immensity of God, and what people acted like when they saw Him, and then you look at how we talk about God, how we worship Him... and you think “How could we possibly be talking about the same God?”
  - **Summarize: Charles Misner, one of Einstein’s students**, wrote about Einstein’s lack of interest in religion: *“The design of the universe is very magnificent and should not be taken for granted. In fact, I believe that is why Einstein had so little use for organized religions, although he struck me as basically a very religious man. Einstein must have looked at what the preacher said about God and felt that they were blaspheming! He had seen more majesty than he had ever imagined in the creation of the universe and felt the God they were talking about couldn’t have been the real thing. My guess is that he simply felt that the churches he had run across did not have proper respect for the Author of the Universe.”*
- The intensity with which you worship or talk about something shows how much you value it. **I read something** in a book by **C. S. Lewis** years ago that really changed how I understood worship:
  - **Reflections on the Psalms:** “The most obvious fact about praise—whether of God or anything—strangely escaped me. . . . I had never noticed that all enjoyment

spontaneously overflows into praise... The world rings with praise—lovers praising their mistresses, readers their favorite poet, walkers praising the countryside, fans praising their favorite game—praise of weather, wines, dishes, actors, cars, horses, colleges, countries, historical personages, children, flowers, mountains, rare stamps, rare beetles, even sometimes politicians or scholars.”

- Everybody praises!
- Do you realize the things we worship here in this country? I mean, what do we really get excited about?
  - Article: 30,000 people crowded Franklin St. climbing telephone poles; turning cars over; saw a girl take off her pants and light them on fire because her section of the street didn't have a bonfire... What responding to? Defeated Michigan State... UNC was national champions for a year. Appropriate? Sure. But then I come here and we talk about Jesus defeating death and sin and raising from the dead (yawn and check watch).
  - I've noticed w/ sports people have a sense of anticipation... **Illus.** Guy said the other day regarding Carolina basketball: Before the 1<sup>st</sup> game, I'm calling it... UNC is going to the final 4. Sports fans have what has happened that give them a sense about what is coming! What if we lived with that kind of expectancy and desire? Before Easter next year, God will have revealed Himself on my campus...
  - People participate in sports with exuberance... Cameron Crazie mean anything? Smartest people on the planet acting like fools. People who made 1600 on SAT with their shirts off and blue letters painted on their chests...
  - Compare that to people's reactions to God...
    - And btw, I don't mean that when you come to church you should act like you do at a
- basketball game... I'm not saying come in here next week with your face painted... If this whole front section turns into the Cameron Crazies and 5 guys here on the front row bare-chested with J-E-S-U-S painted on their bellies, I'm not saying that would be good or healthy for the rest of us. **Sometimes real worship is a sense of awe that causes you to sit in silence; when** you see God sometimes it is more appropriate to just shut up and tremble.
- But I will go on record saying that I think some of you are hypocrites because you are exuberant when you talk about and worship your sports team and lethargic and bored-looking when you talk about God.
- We teach this stuff to our kids... we teach our kids to pay more attention to sports than God.. not directly... but you push your kid into so much sports activity... dance, and football, and basketball, and soccer... I'm not against sports, played them all through school and I love them Do you realize how pathetic it is to teach your kid to prioritize sports above God? When you allow your kid to continually miss out on learning about and knowing the God of the universe because he's always at practice and you're so proud of him because he can throw a little ball farther than the other kids... don't you see how pathetic that is?
- **Some parents teach kids to worship academics.** Neve directly... but you are always push them getting ahead Now, I'm into academics; I have a PhD; but don't you see how learning the way of the world pales in comparison to knowing the maker of the world?

- **It seems now that we teach our kids to be excited about everything except for a longing for God.**
- **Some people worship politics**—whether they are Democrats or Republicans; some people worship the green agenda... everything has got to be earth-friendly this and ozone safe... and I’m not ripping on that... but don’t you see how senseless it is to pay more attention to the earth than you do its Creator?
  - I’m not saying that there’s anything wrong with any of these things: sports, academics, politics... I’m just saying it is pathetic for us to be more devoted to anything than seeking the God of the universe...
  - People ask me about my political convictions... do you have them? Of course. It’s just I’m never going to show more fervor or devotion or excitement about a political agenda than I do the God of the universe; because I know that the real hope and change you can believe is found in no man, it’s found in God.

### **Casual devotion**

- For most of us, God is more like an assistant than anything else! Assistants... someone you hire to help you; if they don’t do it, you get rid of them. Most people appease God; they marginalize Him. God gets His section... you got to be fairly moral; go to church or confession from time to time; say this, rub that... a little money for His work.
  - *If God is the size we see Him here... is that really the kind of God you ask into your life as an assistant? **Is He the kind of God you just pay the minimum balance to and go on with your life?***
  - **I mean, do you really feel like that’s it?** “To just read the Bible, attend church, and avoid ‘big’ sins—is this

passionate, wholehearted, love for God?” (Francois Fenelon)

- God is to be sought more than anything else, to be desired and loved and treasured and wanted more than anything.
  - You see this all through the Bible... and how we have massacred these passages is absurd.
  - **Psalm 42:1** *As a deer longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for you, O God.* Oh, what we have done to this verse... friend Matt Chandler says... this is the verse our Christian subculture has turned into a painting or a verse you put on a painting or plaque to calm you or give a serene moment... or coffee cup w/ deer jumping over a stream and antlers... nothing calm in this verse. It is violent; he wants God so bad he feels like he may die. Or look at this one: **Psalm 63:1** *O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*
  - Do you hear the intensity of that? You want God more than you’ve ever wanted another human being. There are times, especially during my engagement, and even now, that I longed for my life. I don’t mean just sexually, but I just longed to be with her. When I’m gone for a long time I long for her. But David is talking about something far beyond that. I love my wife and my kids but I would never really say my flesh faints for her...

If we’ve seen God, we would tremble in our belief; in our worship; in our obedience. So the fact that we do not means that for many of us, how can we say we’ve seen and known God?

Let me try and speak right to where some of you are.

- **Some of you have given little to no thought to your relationship with God.** You know your life is not where it should be with God—Sin you are not dealing with, but it’s just

not that important to you. Nothing should concern us as much as our relationship to God. (Look, can I tell you what I think life's greatest danger is? Used to think it was failure, disease, or death. But, you know, those things: Failure, disease, death—those things can drive you to see your need for God. Life's greatest danger is succeeding at things that do not matter, because they might keep you from ever considering the one thing that does.)

- **Some of you have treated God like a cafeteria line...** take what you want. He either is who He says He is or not! Either accept that He is God or walk away.
- **Some of you don't believe in God; don't care, not that interesting to me..."** That's a decision you have to make, I understand... but just one thing: Do you realize how important this question is... If you're wrong about this... if you're wrong and there really is a God behind the staggering immensity of creation, do you realize how devastating that error will be? **Noah Webster**, the guy who wrote the dictionary, said something once that really made sense to me: Only 2 attitudes really make sense: the person that serves God with all their heart because they know Him; and the one who searches for God with all his heart because he doesn't, until he is sure that that God doesn't exist.
- **Here's my point: When we see the immensity of God, everything changes.** And my prayer for you is not that I would motivate you to live differently, but that your eyes would be opened to the immensity of God. A lot of times I feel like we make a mistake. We tell you... oh, go and do this and that. Christianity is not essentially something you go and do; it's something you "see" that changes you. You see it, it changes you, and your behavior then changes naturally.
  - **Like a balloon.** If you'd see Him and be awed by Him, you'd obey! To walk with Jesus means you've been so changed on the inside, so captivated by God's beauty is

that you float on your own. **It's not something you need to go and do; it's something you need to see.**

You say, "Well, where can I see God like this? Where can I found a mountain of fire with smoke and kilns and trumpets?" We've actually built one of paper mache in the back when you leave...

**Great question:** This whole chapter, all of it, is a picture of something pretty incredible. Well, you see, when Jesus died, He died on a mountain. It says that when He died the sky was covered by a thick cloud of darkness, as God turned His face away. At the cross Jesus endured the thunder of God's judgment and the lightning of His wrath for our sin. The fire of His holiness burned through the body of Christ until it killed Him. When Jesus died the earth literally shook, and the last thing He did is He yelled at the top of His voice, like a trumpet, "It is finished."

You want to see where you can see God this way? It's all in Jesus. John 1:14, "In Jesus, we have seen His glory, the glory as of the only Son of the Father." Learn of Jesus. Our small group leaders, one of the things we encourage them to read is the cross-centered life... learnin to see God in the cross of Jesus.

The other place you see and experience this God is in His Holy Spirit.. we'll get more into this next week, but when the Holy Spirit filled the church in Acts 2... remember what happened? There was a rushing wind, and flames and even later, an earthquake? The Holy Spirit is the presence of God with us. We are not simply people serving God from a distance; we are people living with and in and move in the very presence of God in His Holy Spirit. Most of you are people who are keeping a checklist for God that you think He'll check later. More on that next week.

**Prayer: (Great prayer, not just for super spiritual people) O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more... I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, I want to**

Want thee; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made more  
thirsty still. Show me Thy glory, I pray Thee, so that I may know Thee  
indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Give me grace  
to rise and follow Thee up from this misty lowland where I have  
wandered so long. **(A.W. Tozer, Pursuit of God)**

## ullpen:

- Do you really feel like, if you really saw God, you could go on just flirting around and nursing some pet sin? Of course not. Well then, if you are doing that (if you are casually handling some sin), how could you suppose you've really known God?
- *is that really the appropriate response? If the distance between the sun and the earth were the thickness of one piece of paper; then the distance between earth and the closest star would be a stack of paper 70 feet high; the distance across our galaxy would be a stack of paper 310 miles high; our galaxy is but a speck of dust. The Bible says God upholds the whole universe by the word of His power.... is*
- **God.** He could not be larger; He could not be more pure or more holy; His salvation and love could not be greater. **Summit, we worship a God we cannot even exaggerate;** whom our words cannot describe; of whom any image we could make would be blasphemous; who is so majestic and powerful and pure and holy and loving that if we actually saw Him, we would immediately die.
- 
- Guys, the Gospel is NOT that you are compelled to go and do a bunch of stuff you really ought to do, but that you see the overwhelming beauty and love and majesty and grace of God and your heart just wells up within you to delight in God and know Him and serve Him.
- If you could really see God, would you say, "I'm just not sure you are worth it. I really want to go on with my life, play with my little sin habit' I don't really want to give up control, even if it means I get you. Most of us, if that were the choice, probably think we'd choose God. But the reality is that how we spend our time and energy, what we spend our money on... those are the equivalent of rejecting or pursuing God.
- 
- God is not someone who can be tacked on onto our lives.

- Daniel Webster once said, "The greatest thought that has ever entered my mind is that one day I will have to stand before a Holy God and give an account of my life."
- 
- We have a lot of parents in here who think they are raising their kids as Christians, but in every way you are teaching them to prioritize sports or education. You talk about and encourage and consume their time with sports... hoping they get an athletic scholarship... do you realize how pathetic that is on the grand scheme of eternity? That we have a God the size of our God and you taught them that running with a little leather ball faster than other people was more important? Do you not see how pathetic that is?
  - 
  - Aside: Joining other cultures... in our church. I know you can't change your culture. You are stuffy white people.
  - Does that seem narrow? Does that sound narrow to you? No more narrow than you are yourself. Say someone came up to you... "I'm going to write a biography about you." Flattered. "In my biography of you, you are an astronaut; you're really, really bad at relationships and so you live with 18 cats because no one will date you." "Uhhh... Actually, I'm scared of heights, I consider myself a nice person, and I'm more of a dog person." "But this is how I prefer to see you. You'd be offended. Same way with God. We can't just remake Him into what we want Him to be.

Big scene; holy crap; trumpet that no one blows; scary... words can't describe this.

Obvious: "I feel like this about God..."

You must *prepare* to meet God...

believe (v. 9)

<sup>1</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to the Lord to look and many of them perish. <sup>22</sup> Also let the priests who come near to the Lord consecrate themselves, lest the Lord break out against them." <sup>23</sup> And Moses said to the Lord, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us, saying, 'Set limits around the mountain and consecrate it.' " <sup>24</sup> And the Lord said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest he break out against them." <sup>25</sup> So Moses went down to the people and told them.

Greater love has no man than this, than that a man would lay down his life for His friends, but God demonstrates His love for us in that while we were still His enemies, Christ died for us!