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**Message Series: 40 Days | Seek. Ask. Fast.****Message Title: 40 Days of Revelation****Scripture: Exodus 24:12–18; 34:27–35**

We are always being formed by whatever we spend the most time with. This is a quiet truth that most of us live, but rarely name. Our attention, habits, and environment shape us. We become what we behold.

In Scripture, forty days mark a sacred season of testing, preparation, and transformation. It is not a random length of time, but a recurring rhythm God used when he is about to do something new. Again and again in the Scriptures, when God desires to reveal God's self more deeply, God invites his people into a long, intentional season of presence.

The Lord promises in Jeremiah 29:13, "*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*" Throughout this 40 Day series, together as a church, we are committing to three actions:

Seek: intentional attention. To seek is to choose to direct our attention toward God deliberately.

Ask: prayerful dependence. To ask is to pray with trust, naming our need before a good Father.

Fast: sacred subtraction. To fast is to remove something good so we can make room for something greater.

Today, we'll examine the second occurrence of forty days in Scripture, as Moses spends forty days on Mt. Sinai twice in Exodus 24-34. Through Moses' forty days in the story, we will learn that when we spend extended time in God's presence, he reveals his character and his word, which transforms us from the inside out. We pick up the story after the Lord rescued the Hebrew people from Egypt and Moses led them to the mountain of the Lord to worship.

1. Invitation: God Invites Moses Up the Mountain (Exodus 24:12–18)

- Exodus 24:12 begins with God's invitation to Moses. Notice what God says, "Come up...stay...I will give you." The Lord desires for Moses to be with him on the mountain, in the presence of the Lord, not just for a visit but for a long stay.
- When Moses climbed the mountain, the glorious presence of the Lord settled on the mountain in a cloud, covering even Moses. For six days, Moses stayed in the glory, and the Lord was silent. Moses waits. He receives no instructions, no revelation; he is just in the presence of the Lord. Finally, after six days, the Lord spoke to Moses.
- The Lord invites us as his people into his presence. Some of us leave too early. We pray quickly. We skim Scripture. We ask God to speak—but we don't stay long enough to listen. Revelation doesn't come to the rushed. Revelation comes through proximity and presence.

- In Exodus 24:18, Moses remained on the mountain for forty days. He was in the glorious presence of the Lord. What was he doing? Nothing, he was just there with the Lord.

2. Revelation: God Reveals God's Character and Glory (Exodus 33:12–34:10)

- After forty days on the mountain and the disaster of the golden calf, Moses finds himself at a crossroads, not just geographically, but spiritually. The covenant has been shattered. The tablets are broken. And the question hanging in the air is simple but devastating: Will God still go with us?
- In Exodus 33:18, Moses asks not for more power, or for a new people, or more protection. Moses asks the Lord, "Show me your glorious presence." He isn't asking for instructions about how to lead the stubborn, broken people. He is asking for a relationship. He wants to know God.
- God responds with revelation when Moses climbs Mt. Sinai. God revealed his name and his character in Exodus 34:5-7. God defines God's own glory as mercy, patience, faithfulness, and forgiveness.
- Many of us assume that if God were to reveal His glory, it would be overwhelming or terrifying. But here, God reveals his glory as compassionate, gracious, and slow to anger.
- The greatest revelation God can give us is not a new direction, but a deeper understanding of his character.

3. Transformation: Moses Changes in God's Presence (Exodus 34:27–35)

- Moses spent another forty days in God's presence receiving the words of the Lord to give to the people of God.
- While he was on the mountain, he fasted from food. Moses fasted to remove distractions, to make room for revelation.
- The presence of God changed Moses, but he was unaware of the change. Others noticed the change before Moses, whose face was shining.
- Time in the presence of the Lord transforms us. Spiritual formation is slow but constant. It never stops. We are changing, being changed, in ways we are aware of and unaware of at all times.
- Spiritual formation always spills outward. People may not know what's different, but they will sense that something has shifted.
- 2 Corinthians 3:18: *So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.*
- The same glory that changed Moses is available to us. God invites us into his presence. We don't need a mountain because God's presence is available to us to access through Jesus.

This week, revelation is not about trying harder, but staying longer. Stay long enough for the silence to settle, the distractions to fade, and God's voice to become clearer than the noise. This week, God is inviting you to the mountain for revelation and transformation. When we spend time in God's presence, he reveals his character and his word, which transform us from the inside out.

Seek: Spend 40 minutes each day intentionally directing your attention to God's presence.

Ask: Pray for God to show you glory and ask like your life depends on experiencing God's presence.

Fast: Subtract whatever is stealing your attention so that you can focus on the sacred presence of God.