

"Prepare" Series

Echo Church | Week 44 | November 2, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr. |

"Part 1: | **Exodus 19:10-11** (NKJV)

Exodus 19:10-13

10 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes.

11 And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

12 You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.

13 Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain."

Introduction

We are living in a moment where God is trying to get our attention. He is preparing us for an encounter that is beyond our normal categories of experience. He is preparing us for something more than just another Sunday service, more than another conference, more than another moment of emotional euphoria. God is preparing us for Himself—for the undiluted, direct or first hand, unfiltered weight of His presence.

But if we're honest, many of us have a distorted understanding of what that presence truly is. We have, in many ways, minimized the majesty of God. We've traded the consuming fire of Sinai for the strobe lights of a stage.

Our culture has conditioned us to chase experiences. We look for the next "move" of God, but what we often settle for is a counterfeit, a fraudulent spiritual encounter designed to keep us wanting another hit. It's a manufactured moment of hype, a carefully curated atmosphere that feels like God but lacks the transforming power of God. (I have often wondered how we are in the presence of God and still able to record, respond in flesh and then brag about how God moved and no one was delivered, no one was saved, no one was transformed. We record the moment to post the moment to brag as if God is obligated to show up because we said he would.)

It's an emotional high that fades by Saturday, leaving us dependent on the next gathering, the next event, the next personality to give us our "fix." We've become conditioned to believe we

need a gatekeeper—a worship leader, a preacher, an apostle—to usher us into an encounter with God. We've outsourced our own responsibility to seek Him.

But God is calling us out of this cycle of dependency. He is inviting us into a direct, personal, and profound encounter with His holiness. Look at the text.

Before God descends in glory, before the trumpet sounds, before the mountain trembles, He gives His people a command. It's a simple, yet profound instruction: "Prepare." God was about to do something they had never seen, and they could not approach it casually. The same is true for us today. God wants to reveal Himself to you in a new dimension, but it requires that you do what they did. It requires that you prepare.

Your next level or season is not about who you know; it's about how you prepare for Who you want to know. It's time to move beyond the hype and get ready for the holy.

Point 1: Consecrate: Set Apart for Supernatural

The first instruction God gives Moses for the people is to consecrate themselves. This wasn't a suggestion; it was a prerequisite. Consecration means to be set apart for a divine purpose. It's a deliberate decision to detach from the common to make yourself available for the uncommon.

Notice, it doesn't mean you're better than anyone else; it just means you've been reserved for a different use.

A coffee mug and a communion cup can be made from the same material, but one is set apart for a sacred purpose. God is calling you to stop living a common, culturally-defined, "normal" life because He has a supernatural assignment for you. You cannot expect a supernatural encounter while maintaining a natural posture. *Preparation for God's presence begins with separation from the world's patterns. The church and the believers have to leave what the world has created and come from amongst them and be separated. How can the church be holy living like the world.*

How can you be a believer and live like the world? If your vocabulary mirrors the world and not God then there's a problem and how do you expect to have the presence of God dwelling in you?

The "I'm trying to win them" is equal to "It's ok to splurge a little bit..every check"

This means you might have to say "no" to some things that aren't inherently sinful, but are currently distracting.

It means your schedule, your entertainment, and your conversations have to be audited. Are they positioning you for God, or pulling you away from Him?

Consecration is the active process of aligning every area of your life with the holiness of the God you claim to serve.

Quote: "Consecration isn't about becoming too good for the world; it's about becoming useful to God."

Supporting Scriptures:

Joshua 3:5: "And Joshua said to the people, 'Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.'"

2 Corinthians 6:17: "Therefore 'Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.'"

Romans 12:1: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

1 Peter 1:15-16: "but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"

Point 2: Cleanse: Wardrobe for the Weight

After the call to consecrate, God gives a very practical, external instruction: "Let them wash their clothes." This was more than just about hygiene. This was an outward symbol of an inward readiness. We tend to think that the only outward appearance is water baptism. There's always a change outwardly when the inside changes. It was a physical act representing a spiritual posture. They were about to come into the vicinity of pure holiness, and you cannot bring your mess into a moment of majesty. Washing their garments was a declaration: "I am preparing my outside to reflect the reverence on my inside."

This speaks to integrity, repentance, and purity. *"Washing our clothes" is dealing with the sin that so easily entangles us.* It's confessing and forsaking the habits, the attitudes, and the secret faults that stain our witness.

It's the daily decision to put off the "old man"—the anger, the gossip, the lust, the bitterness—and put on the "new man" created in righteousness. *You can't expect to carry the weight of His glory in clothes stained with compromise.* God isn't looking for perfect people, but He is looking for repentant people. The invitation to His presence is always preceded by an invitation to the cross, where we are cleansed.

Quote: "You cannot put on the character of Christ until you take off the garments of compromise."

Supporting Scriptures:

Psalm 24:3-4: "Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart..."

James 4:8: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

Isaiah 1:16-18: "'Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil... Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.'"

1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Ephesians 4:22-24: "...that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt...and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."

Point 3: Contain: Borders for Burning Bushes

The third part of the preparation was about boundaries. *God tells Moses, "You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base.'"* This wasn't to be mean; it was to be merciful.

The uncontained, direct presence of the Holy God is dangerous to sinful flesh. The same power that heals can also consume.

This command teaches us a vital lesson: the presence of God is powerful and must be respected. You don't just stumble into it. You don't treat it like it's common.

This principle of "setting bounds" is critical for us. We must set boundaries in our own lives to protect our encounters with God. This means *guarding your heart, your eyes, and your ears*. It means setting limits on your technology, your relationships, and your schedule to create sacred space. The text even mentions a temporary abstinence from something good and God-given—marital intimacy—to focus on the best thing: God Himself.

What good thing might you need to temporarily set aside to pursue the Giver of all good things? Fasting is a boundary. Turning off your phone for the first hour of your day is a boundary. Protecting your heart from foolishness is a boundary. These borders are not to keep God out; they are to keep distractions out so you can properly host Him.

Quote: "Boundaries don't limit your freedom; they protect your focus."

Supporting Scriptures:

Exodus 3:5: "Then He said, 'Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.'"

Proverbs 4:23: "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."

1 Corinthians 6:12: "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

Hebrews 12:28-29: "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire."

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor..."

Conclusion

So what's next?

This week:

Consecrate: Set yourselves apart. Stop doing what's normal to prepare for what's supernatural.

Cleanse: Wash your clothes. This is an outer symbol of an inner readiness. You can't bring mess into a moment of majesty.

Contain: Set boundaries. Don't even touch the mountain. The presence of God is powerful and must be respected. Abstain from even good things (like marital intimacy) to focus on the best thing.

Why? Echo Church will be a place where the authentic, organic presence of God will be. In order to do this it requires that we prepare for what's about to happen. We will not be reactive we will be proactive. READY FOR THE NEXT MOMENT. We know it's going to happen so why not be prepared.