

Last Week's Sermon Summary

『Ascending the Mountain of God』

Pastor Takashi Inoue

Exodus 33:13, 18-25 34:1-5

❶ **[Moses, who was adamant that God was with him]** While Moses was ascending the mountain of God and receiving the Ten Commandments, at the foot of the mountain the Israelites had betrayed the God who had saved them and had made an idol of a golden calf. God is angry and says that he will no longer go with this people. I will not go up among you. I will not go up among you, lest I destroy you on the way. You are a stubborn people." (Ex. 33:3) If they were nearby, they might see the unbelief of the people, become angry, and destroy them, so they would not go with them. Similar words were once said by Jesus. When Jesus came down from the mountain and learned that his disciples had failed to heal a child possessed by an evil spirit, he said, "How faithless and wicked are these times! How long shall I be with you? How long shall I be patient with you?" (Matthew 17:17). Jesus is also putting up with the unbelief of His disciples. God cannot bear to dwell among unbelievers. What God delights in is faith. (Heb. 11:6) To approach God without faith is suicide. When Moses heard this, he persisted in asking the Lord to change His will and go with the Israelites. He said, "If you yourself will not go, do not let us go up from here, but let us go up to the land of the living, and let us go up to the land of the dead. How can I know that You will show favor to me and to Your people? Is it not by your going with us? Then I and your people will be special and different from all the peoples of the earth. (Ex. 33:15-16) It is God's presence with us

that makes us special. Without God's presence, we are nothing.

❷ **[The Rock, Christ, who walks with His people]** Moses said, "It is God's favor that God be with us. Indeed, the blessing is God's presence with man. Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt, accused of a crime he did not commit, and thrown into prison, but because the Lord was with him, he was protected, given wisdom, and was able to solve his problems. The phrase "the Lord was with Joseph" (Genesis 39:2, 3, 21, 23) is repeated four times.

God heard Moses' request and promised to go up with him. Moses asks, "Show me your glory" (33:18). Glory is the manifestation of God, so he asks to be shown. God then says, "You cannot see my face. For no man can look upon me and yet live. Behold, a place is beside Me. Stand thou by the rock. When My glory passes by, I will put thee in the cleft of the rock, and I will cover thee with My hand until I pass by. And when I remove My hand, you will look behind Me, but you will not see My face." (Ex. 33:20-23). Man cannot see God, but he can see God in one place beside Him, which is a rock, and he can hide behind that rock. To see the back of the rock would mean that we can see the work that God has done. This rock was Christ." (I Corinthians 10:4) Paul said.

This Rock traveled with the Israelites without leaving them. We see God through Jesus. Jesus promised, "I will be with you until the end of the world.

❸ **[Let's make an effort to climb God's mountain]** The Lord said to Moses, "Prepare it (the two stone tablets) by tomorrow morning, and go up to Mount Sinai in the morning and stand before me at the top of the mountain." (Exodus 34:2) ↗

Weekly Report

The United Church of Christ in Japan Miyakojima Church

Mission Established December 1, 1957

Church Established December 2, 2001

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《Last Judgment》

Miyakojima Church's 2025 Mission Policy

Motto : "Let's prepare for the construction of the church "

Scripture : " The toil of those who build houses is in vain, unless the Lord Himself builds them " (Psalm 127:1)

Goals for FY2024

- 1 Observe worship services every week and aim for an average of 27 people to attend services.
- 2 We invite one person to worship in one year.
- 3 We value the fellowship of believers.
- 4 Make concrete preparations for the construction of the church.