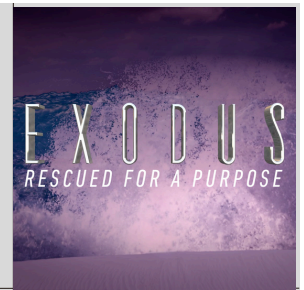


5 Day Reflections



<i>Exodus Series</i>	<i>Speaker:</i>	
<i>How Do We Enter God's Presence</i>	<i>John Mark Tittsworth</i>	08/17/25



Day 1: Understanding True Holiness

<i>Devotional</i>	<p>We often confuse holiness with righteousness, but they're fundamentally different. Righteousness is about our behavior—how we act in the world. Holiness, however, is about access to God's presence and whether it's safe to be there. Think of God's presence like a nuclear reactor—beautiful and powerful when approached correctly, but potentially dangerous when treated casually. This isn't meant to scare us away but to help us understand the reverence required when approaching our Creator. In the Old Testament, God established specific ways for people to approach Him safely. These weren't arbitrary rules but loving guidelines. God desires relationship with us, but on His terms, not ours. Today, take a moment to reflect on how you approach God. Do you come casually, treating Him like a cosmic vending machine? Or do you approach with reverence, recognizing His awesome power and holiness? God invites us to draw near, but with hearts that acknowledge who He truly is.</p>
<i>Bible Verse</i>	<p>"Then 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.'" - Exodus 19:21</p>
<i>Reflection Question</i>	<p>How might your approach to God change if you truly understood the difference between His holiness and righteousness?</p>
<i>Quote</i>	<p>"Holiness is misunderstood because it's different from righteousness. Righteousness is behavior. It is how you act in the world. And it's on a scale of injustice, justice, righteousness."</p>
<i>Prayer</i>	<p>Holy God, forgive me for the times I've approached You casually or without proper reverence. Help me understand the beauty and power of Your holiness. Teach me to draw near to You with both confidence and awe. Amen.</p>

Day 2: Invited to Draw Near

<i>Devotional</i>	God's rescue of Israel from Egypt wasn't just about freedom from slavery—it was an invitation to relationship. He didn't save them so they could go their own way; He saved them to bring them near to Himself. The same is true for us today. Salvation isn't just about escaping hell or having our sins forgiven. Those are incredible gifts, but they're means to a greater end: intimate relationship with God Himself. In Exodus, God established the tabernacle as a place where He would dwell among His people. Every detail of its construction communicated something about approaching God's presence safely. The message was clear: God wants us near Him, but on His terms. Jesus has now made the way for us to draw near with confidence. We don't need physical tabernacles or animal sacrifices anymore. But we still need to approach God with reverence, understanding that His holiness hasn't changed, even if our access has been simplified through Christ.
<i>Bible Verse</i>	"There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel." - Exodus 25:22
<i>Reflection Question</i>	What does it mean to you personally that God's ultimate purpose in saving you was to bring you near to Himself?
<i>Quote</i>	"The big idea is that we're meant to come near the Lord. It's not an option. When God rescues Israel out of slavery and brings him to Himself, he is drawing them near."
<i>Prayer</i>	Father, thank You for not just rescuing me from sin but inviting me into relationship with You. Help me never take this privilege for granted. Teach me to draw near to You daily, with both confidence and reverence. Amen.

Day 3: Sacred Spaces and Thin Places

<i>Devotional</i>	Throughout history, God has established sacred spaces where heaven and earth intersect—places where humans can interact with Him on His terms. The tabernacle in Exodus was such a place, designed not just as a building but as a training ground for Israel's spiritual imagination. These "thin spaces" between the spiritual and physical realms aren't just historical curiosities. They teach us something profound about God's nature and our relationship with Him. In these spaces, God agrees to be present and responsive to those who approach properly. While we no longer need physical tabernacles to access God, we still need to recognize that approaching Him requires preparation of heart and mind. The New Testament tells us that we ourselves are now temples of the Holy Spirit—sacred spaces where God dwells. Today, consider how you might create sacred space in your own life. This could be a physical location where you meet with God, or simply a regular time set apart for communion with Him. The key is approaching with reverence, recognizing you're entering holy ground.
<i>Bible Verse</i>	"And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it." - Exodus 25:8-9
<i>Reflection Question</i>	Where are the "thin spaces" in your life where you most powerfully experience God's presence, and how might you approach these moments with greater reverence?
<i>Quote</i>	"Sacred institutions, sacred locations and the processes of becoming holy. I think they're talking about, you might say, thin spaces between spiritual and physical realms where God shows up to relate to humans who are prepared in the way that God has said."
<i>Prayer</i>	Lord, help me create sacred space in my life where I can meet with You regularly. Thank You that through Jesus, I can approach You directly. Teach me to recognize Your presence and respond with appropriate reverence. Amen.

Day 4: The Danger of Casual Spirituality

<i>Devotional</i>	<p>Our culture often promotes a "spiritual but not religious" approach to faith—one that seeks spiritual experiences without boundaries or guidelines. But Scripture warns us that spirituality without holiness can be dangerous. Just as we wouldn't casually walk into a radioactive area without proper training and equipment, we shouldn't approach the spiritual realm without God's guidance. God's instructions about holiness aren't arbitrary restrictions but loving protections. The Israelites learned this lesson the hard way. When individuals like Nadab and Abihu approached God's presence improperly, the consequences were severe. These weren't harsh punishments but natural results of unprepared humans encountering pure holiness. Through Jesus, we now have direct access to God's presence, but this doesn't mean we should approach casually. True spirituality requires both the confidence that comes from Christ's work and the reverence that acknowledges God's holiness. As we seek spiritual experiences, let's do so according to God's wisdom, not our preferences.</p>
<i>Bible Verse</i>	<p>"And there I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory. I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar." - Exodus 29:43-44a</p>
<i>Reflection Question</i>	<p>In what ways might you have approached God or spiritual matters too casually, and how can you cultivate a healthier reverence while maintaining intimacy?</p>
<i>Quote</i>	<p>'How stupid would it be for someone to casually go into a radioactive area with no experience, no equipment, no training? It would be stupid, right? You would experience the radiation and it would be detrimental or deadly.'</p>
<i>Prayer</i>	<p>Holy God, forgive me for times I've approached You or spiritual matters casually. Thank You for Jesus who makes it possible for me to draw near. Help me balance confidence with reverence, intimacy with respect. Amen.</p>

Day 5: Our Perfect High Priest

<i>Devotional</i>	<p>In the Old Testament, access to God's presence was limited and complicated. Only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place, and only once a year, with blood for atonement. The message was clear: approaching a holy God required mediation and sacrifice. But everything changed with Jesus. Hebrews tells us that Christ has entered "not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf." Jesus is our perfect High Priest who offered Himself as the ultimate sacrifice. Unlike the repeated sacrifices of the old system, His offering was "once for all." Through Him, we now have direct access to God's presence. This doesn't mean God's holiness has diminished—it means Jesus has perfectly fulfilled all requirements on our behalf. We can now approach God with confidence, not because we're worthy, but because Christ has made us worthy. Today, thank Jesus for being your High Priest and for making a way for you to draw near to God with confidence and joy.</p>
<i>Bible Verse</i>	<p>"And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God." - Exodus 29:46</p>
<i>Reflection Question</i>	<p>How does understanding Jesus as your perfect High Priest change the way you approach God in prayer and worship?</p>
<i>Quote</i>	<p>"Christ has entered not into holy places made with hands which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself. Now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf."</p>
<i>Prayer</i>	<p>Lord Jesus, thank You for being my perfect High Priest. Thank You for offering Yourself once for all so that I can approach God with confidence. Help me never take this privilege for granted, but to draw near with both boldness and reverence. Amen.</p>