God with Us

Ken Chapman · Matthew 1:23

INTRODUCTION

- Gene missed out on a wonderful event because it was a good event because we were together.
- Above that is the fellowship and the closeness and the camaraderie that we have with our God, who is the basis of this fellowship and the basis of our togetherness.

1 Fellowship With God Lost in the Garden

Genesis 3

- What made it paradise is that God was with them and dwelt with them.
- It wasn't leaving the garden that hurt, it was leaving that fellowship with God.
- What God seeks to have restored. Is not a proximity to his people, but a relationship and a fellowship with his people.

2 Partially Restored in Israel

Exodus 25:8–9; Exodus 40:33–34; 2 Chronicles 5:13–14

- Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.
- Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.
- The house of the Lord was filled with a cloud, so that the priest could not continue ministering because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.
- Come unto me, but not too close. And the reason is the sin problem hadn't really been dealt with yet.

3 Lost Again by Rebellion and Sin

Ezekiel 10:4; Ezekiel 10:18–19

- Because of their continual rebellion and sin, something happens. And the captivity is that which happens.
- It wasn't just about being in captivity and the pain and the punishment that would have entailed. It was about losing a relationship to God.
- Then the glory of the Lord departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim.

4 I Will Set My Sanctuary in Their Midst

Ezekiel 37:26–27

- God says, I will set my sanctuary. I'll do the building now.
- My tabernacle also shall be with them. Indeed, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- I'm going to build a permanent presence with my people, and I will dwell among them.

5 Emmanuel, God With Us

Matthew 1:23; John 1:14; John 2:18–21

- They shall call his name Emmanuel, which is translated, God with us.
- The forgiveness of our sins was not the end of what Jesus came to do. that was the means to the end. The end was God with us.
- The word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory.
- The literal word is he tabernacled among us. He was God with us.
- The Holy Spirit explains, he was speaking of the temple of his body.

6 We Are Now the Dwelling Place of God

Ephesians 2:18–19

- The church today is referred to as the body of Christ. His body that was a temple.
- Not so that God can be brought back close to me, but that he may dwell within me.
- You're no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.
- This temple needs to be treated with the respect that God's dwelling place deserves.
- This body is a temple of God that carries with it some demands.

THE CHALLENGE

Would you read His Word, hear His Word, believe on it? Trust in that word, repent of your sin, saying, I'm going to live, leave that world of sin and come and turn and walk in fellowship with God.

MY NOTES