



SERMON OUTLINE SEPTEMBER 20, 2015

“People of the Paradox”

Exodus 32:1-14

INTRODUCTION: *The dictionary definition of “paradox”
and a paradoxical hurricane story.*

I. TODAY’S EXODUS 32 TEXT IS QUITE THE PARADOX

- A. Here we see God “repenting”, changing His mind
- B. The key verses are verses 7, 10 & 14
- C. The context is God’s anger over the people of Israel making the golden calf

II. THE PARADOXES ARE QUITE AMAZING

- A. After deliverance from Egypt, the people forsake God & make a golden idol
- B. God’s anger burns & He is willing to forsake Israel, but bless Moses (v.10)
- C. Moses will not receive the blessing;
instead he intercedes for Israel (vv.11-13)
 - 1. He appeals to God’s reasonableness (v.11)
 - 2. He appeals to God’s reputation (v.12)
 - 3. He reminds God of His own promise (v.13)

III. THE DEPTH OF THE PARADOX IS SHOWN IN THE EXTENT OF GOD’S ANGER & THE INTENSITY OF MOSES’ INTERCESSION

- A. Deuteronomy 9:25 tells us Moses lay on his face 40 days & nights pleading
- B. Today’s Exodus text (v.14) says God then changed His mind!
- C. The God Who does not change, did change!
- D. Here’s the divine paradox:
He does not give us what we deserve . . .
this reveals to us what it is about God that does NOT change:
His love for sinners is stronger than His hatred of sin
- E. Here’s the divine paradox: His precious Word of Law & Gospel
- F. We see this paradox in:
 - 1. Our faith shared
 - 2. The Word proclaimed
 - 3. The Sacraments of Baptism & Communion
- G. And – the clearest paradox:
The cross of our Lord Jesus – wrath & mercy
at the same time (Isaiah 53:12)

CONCLUSION: *We are people of the paradox!*