

**My Meeting Place** | April 22, 2018

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God doesn't just want his people to know of or about his existence, but to experience him.

**Exodus 20.24**

*...I will come to you and bring good to you.*

- In the Old Testament people were instructed by God to build alters. There were instructions in how to build (eg, Exodus 24, 27) and who should serve at them and how to serve at them (Exodus 28).
- These became meeting places with God or places where humans dealt with God and God dealt with them.
- In the New Testament we see the development of the alter. Jesus is the "meeting place" (temple) where people meet and meet with God and the cross becomes a once and for all place of sacrifice.
- The Old Testament alter, however, give examples of ways God would be met with. Exodus 20.24 describes the burnt offering (brought any time and with regularity), the peace offering (spontaneously bringing thanks to God), and there was always a sense of remembrance (don't forget!). Along with all this the alter was a place to receive (I will bring good to you).
- At the alter God said, "I will meet you there."
- We can "build alters" to God at any place, at any time because of the life and work of Jesus on the cross. And in those moments God says, "Stop striving and start receiving".

- When we do this we move from a general, ever present sense of God's presence to an intentional place where we experience him particularly.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. In our understanding of “the alter” why is the cross so central? If we are to use “building alters” as metaphorical language, what do we need to keep in mind about Jesus and what happened at the cross?
2. If you recall, share of a time you leaned in and experienced God beyond the general sense he was present.
3. What might alter building look like in your life? Is there a regularity or spontaneity to such action that might be helpful as you aim to draw closer to God?