

EXODUS 33:12-23 THE PROMISE OF GOD'S PRESENCE!

9/9/17 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente, ptwente@gmail.com

ROCK OF AGES – Augustus Toplady, sung by Ernie Ford

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me Let me hide myself in Thee; Let the water and the blood From Thy wounded side which flowed, Be of sin the double cure; Save from wrath and make me pure
2. Could my tears forever flow, Could my zeal no languor know, These for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone. In my hand no price I bring; Simply to the cross I cling
3. While I draw this fleeting breath When mine eyes shall close in death. When I rise to worlds unknown, and behold beyond Thy Throne. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee. Let me hide myself in Thee.

EXODUS 33:12-23 - "Moses' Intercession"

Exo 33:12 Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' [13] Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people." [14] And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." [15] Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. [16] For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth." [17] So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name." [18] And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." [19] Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." [20] But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." [21] And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. [22] So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. [23] Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

The Setting:

- In Ex. 20-23, God gives the law to Moses verbally and its practical application. The people say they will do "all the words that the Lord has said, we will do!" (Ex. 24:3)
- In Chapter 24, Israel confirms the covenant. God calls Moses alone up to the mountain and was on the mountain forty days and forty nights. He was given instructions/blueprints for the tabernacle; for the priesthood and their consecration; the daily offerings; all the furnishing of the tabernacle; the Sabbath Law
- When God had finished speaking to Moses, He gave Moses two tables of the Testimony, tablets of stone written with the finger of God.
- Exo 32:1-5 Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together....and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!" [5] So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD."
- The Lord then said to Moses "Go, get down..." (Ex. 7-9) Now therefore, let Me alone that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them
- In chapter 33, The Lord tells Moses to depart from Mt. Sinai for the Promised Land. The Lord is upset with the rebelling people. He will send "My Angel" before them and will drive out the enemies in the Promised Land, but that He will not go up with them. Moses begins to pray for the promise of God's presence.

1. MOSES PRAYS FOR THE PEOPLE...Exo 33:12-17 Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' [13] Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people." [14] And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." [15] Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. [16] For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth." [17] So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name."

- But You have not let me know whom You will send with me: For Moses, it wasn't enough to know that he and Israel would make it to the Promised Land. For him, the Promised Land was nothing special without the special presence of the LORD. God previously promised to send an angel with Israel (Exo 33:2). Moses presses God on this point, asking exactly whom God will send.
- My Presence will go with you: Here God seems to answer Moses' prayer, but Moses does not rest. He continues to press God for affirmation of the promise. We see how boldly and determined Moses sought after God for **the sake of his own relationship with God and for the benefit of the nation.**

- *For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us?* Moses knew that nothing the LORD could give them would truly separate them from the nations. **Only the strong and constant presence of the LORD Himself could do that.**
- *For you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name:* God honored the bold intercession of Moses, and He promised to restore His relationship with Israel.

2. MOSES' DESIRE TO DRAW CLOSER (Exo 33:18) And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."

- *Please, show me Your glory:* Moses won a "yes" answer from God when he asked for the special presence of God to remain with Israel on the way to the Promised Land (**Exo 33:12-17**). He also won a confirmation of the promise from God and an affirmation of close relationship. Yet he was still not satisfied. He wanted *more* in his personal relationship with God. What hunger Moses had for more of God - for more of an *experience* with God, which is a mark of true revival and restoration of relationship. Whatever Moses had experienced with God, he wanted more.
- **Show me Your glory:** This was an interesting request. Moses already saw something of the glory of God (**Exo 16:10; Exo 24:16-17**), yet he wanted more. He sensed that he had not seen anything yet.

3. GOD TELLS MOSES WHAT HE WILL SHOW HIM. (Exo 33:19-20) Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."

- *I will make all My goodness pass before you:* Moses asked to see the glory of God (**Exo 33:18**). God promised to show Moses His *goodness*. God's glory lies in His *goodness*. When Moses saw the glory of God, his understanding was that God was good. If we don't know that God is good, we don't really know Him at all. He is entirely good.
- *I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you:* In Hebrew and in other ancient cultures, the **name** represented a person's character and nature. God promised to reveal His character to Moses, not merely a title.
- *You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live:* God would not - and could not - literally show Moses His face. This helps us to understand what was meant in **Exo 33:11** when it said, *the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend*, not as a prince to a subject. Here Joshua is identified as the son of Nun.

4. HOW GOD WILL PROTECT MOSES WHEN GOD PASSES BEFORE MOSES. (Exo 33:21-23)

And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

- *Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock:* God was going to reveal Himself to Moses in a unique way. God prepared the event carefully, telling Moses exactly where to stand.
- *While My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock:* God's glory could not *remain* in front of Moses, it had to pass by him. Even with that, Moses had to be protected by the **hand** of God and **the cleft of the rock** when the glory of God passed before him. What a vivid and endearing image, **to be protected both by the hand of God and hidden away in the rock of refuge He provides.**
- *I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen:* Moses could only see God's **back**. The idea is that Moses could only see behind God, not God Himself. With these special protections, God rewarded the desire of Moses to see His glory as much as humanly possible. **This demonstrates that God rewards the seeking heart.** And as marvelous as this experience was for Moses, it still cannot compare to the revelation of God given to us in Jesus Christ. (**John 1:14**), (**2Cor. 3:18**).

SUMMARY:

- **How much do we value the presence of God?**
- **Do we, like Moses, really say and mean, "If You don't go with us, we won't go!"**
- **Do we always standing on the His promises when we pray to the Father?**
- **Have we found grace, as Moses did, in His sight?**
- **Do we ask, "Please, show me Your glory?"**
- **We notice how God rewards a seeking heart.**
- **Are we crying out, "Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee?"**
- **This revealing of God's glory to Moses, cannot compare to the revelation of Him through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. General James Kelly. The Cabinet and all advisors. Appointee - Christopher Wray, F.B.I.

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