

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

Exodus 33 & 34

INTRO Turn your Bibles or turn them on, to Exodus chapter 33. Last week I preached from Exodus 3 & 4. Today, we are going to look at Exodus 33 & 34. Last Sunday we talked about Moses and the experience he had in his encounter with God at the burning bush. In verse 6 of chapter 3 we read, “*Then he (God) said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.”* Now we come to chapter 33. When we get to verse 18 we read, “*Then Moses said (to God), “Please show me Your glory.”*”

In chapter 3 Moses was afraid to look at God, but by chapter 33 he was pleading to see Him. What happened during that time that caused such a change in the life and heart of Moses?

As best we can tell, about a year and a half passes between chapters 3 and 33. But during that time Moses has had many encounters with God. It is these experiences with God that has filled his mind with intrigue and wonder as to who and what God really is, until finally he cries out, “*Please, show me your glory.*”

What I want to do today, is analyze the progression, in this relationship between Moses and God, then take a few moments to compare what Moses discovered about God, to what we have learned in our relationship with Him, and how that should bring us to a place of wanting to see God for ourselves. I can't speak for you, but I want to see God in this day that we live. I guess I'm just tired of everything this life has thrown at us, and I need to experience something better, something brighter, and something bigger than my current issues. And I can't help but think that there's something in this book to help us do just that!

Let's read together

Exodus 33: 12-18 “*Then Moses said to the LORD, “Look, You have been telling me, ‘Lead this people up,’ 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 found favor in My sight.’ 13 Now if indeed I have found favor in Your sight, please let me know Your ways, that I may know You and find favor in Your sight. Remember that this nation is Your people.” 14 And the LORD answered, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” 15 “If Your Presence does not go with us,” Moses replied, “do not lead us up from here. 16 For how then can it be known that Your people and I have found favor in Your sight, unless You go with us? How else will we be distinguished from all the other people on the face of the earth?” 17 So the LORD said to Moses, “I will do this very thing you have asked, for you have found favor in My sight, and I know you by name.” 18 Then Moses said, “Please show me Your glory.”*”

Today, I want to preach on the subject, “WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW”.

There is no shortage of people who claim to know what the world needs, what our country needs. And everyone seems to have the solution to the societal problems we face. And time and time again, we give these self professed know-it-alls their turn at the wheel, but nothing ever changes. We keep going in the same wrong direction. — But I say to you today, upon the authority of God's Holy, infallible, and inerrant Word, that **WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW... IS TO SEE GOD'S GLORY!**

In the year or so that Moses had been leading the children of Israel, he had gone through some very difficult things. The Israelites had been contentious, stubborn, and even threatening. But through it all, God had remained a close friend and ally. Moses had witnessed the miraculous time and time again, as God proved Himself faithful.

God, first of all, delivered the Israelites out of the hands of Pharaoh by demonstrating His might through the ten plagues He brought upon the Egyptians. Then as they are leaving Egypt, they run head long into the Red Sea. The Egyptians come after them. And it looks as if they we die in the wilderness. But just then, God makes a way, where there is no way. He parts the Red Sea right before their eyes, and they escape Pharaoh's army on dry ground.

Not long after that the Israelites find themselves at Marah. They are thirsty, they have no water, and the water at Marah is bitter and not fit to drink. It's God that tells Moses, pick up that log and cast it into the water. When he did, the water became sweet and good to drink.

What we don't read but know is true, is that Moses would retire in the evening to his tent. He must have replayed the events of each day in his mind, then he would write them down. He would think about how God had provided once again, how good He had been, and Moses' mind would fill with wonder.

Have you ever taken the time to recall those things God has done for you? Do you record in a journal how good God is, and how He provides for you every day? This is part of the process of SEEING THE GLORY OF GOD! To SEE His glory, we must first ACKNOWLEDGE His glorious works!

In Exodus 16 God sent Quail and Manna from Heaven to feed the Israelites. Moses told Aaron, take some Manna and put it in a jar to show to every generation that follows, that they too may know how God cares for His children.

In Exodus 17 God gives Moses water from a rock, and a great victory over the Amalekites! And Moses, in his private time, replayed the events in his mind. NO WONDER HE GOES FROM HIDING HIS FACE IN CHAPTER 3 TO PLEADING TO SEE GOD IN CHAPTER 33! In just a short period of time, we have seen the relationship with Moses and God go from INTIMIDATING to INTIMATE.

Now, let's go back to chapter 33 and our text for the day. There are a some things that we need to take note of, that put Moses in a place to see the very glory of God. And the same thing can happen for you if you will follow this example. Notice...

I) ACTIVATE THE FAVOR OF GOD: v 12 *"Then Moses said to the LORD, 'Look, You have been telling me, 'Lead this people up,' 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 found favor in My sight.'*

Moses lived in God's favor! You probably want to say, yeah, but that was Moses, the great prophet Moses. I can't be like him. WAIT WHAT? Here's a guy that, sure, scripture says he was a beautiful baby, but once once he became an adult, he had a lot of issues, just like you and me. Well, maybe worse than you. He murdered a guy! Have you ever killed anyone? That's messed up! He also couldn't speak splain for spluttering! Moses didn't have it all together. But he lived in the favor of God. And you can too!

I) ACTIVATE THE FAVOR OF GOD: v 12 CONTINUED But how? Do you remember last week, we talked about how much Moses doubted himself. He didn't see himself as a person capable of delivering the children of Israel. He doubted himself, but HE NEVER DOUBTED GOD! Not even for a minute. And you can read the entire book of Exodus, and the other four books of the Bible that Moses wrote, and somehow, through all the stuff Moses went through, he never doubts God. He was a man of faith! And faith activates the favor of God on your behalf. HOW'S YOUR FAITH THESE DAYS?

Hebrews 11:24-29 *"By faith Moses, when he was grown, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to suffer oppression with God's people rather than to experience the fleeting enjoyment of sin. 26 He valued disgrace for Christ above the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith Moses left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch Israel's own firstborn."*

FAITH, FAITH, will put you and keep you in the favor of God. Notice...

II) APPROPRIATE THE PROMISES OF GOD: v 13 *"Now if indeed I have found favor in Your sight, please let me know Your ways, that I may know You and find favor in Your sight. Remember that this nation is Your people."*

Here Moses does something interesting. He brings back up those things that God had told him was so... "God, YOU SAID, I'm not saying it, you said it, you said I have favor with you. If that's true, AND I KNOW IT IS, because you don't lie, then let me know your ways! That way I will know for sure, you know me Lord, I'm a little slow, I need to know for sure that I have found favor in your sight. LET ME KNOW YOU LORD! Then he throws this in, "...Remember that this nation is Your people." God you have claimed these people as your own! If you kill them now, I know they deserve it Lord, they are a stiff-necked people, I give you that, but if you kill them all, then the other nations will mock you. God, for your good name's sake, show us your glory!

Now, how does that apply to us? Well, God has made some specific promises to those who claim His name. And if you have been saved by the blood of Christ, meaning you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and believed in Him, having repented of your sin and turned to the Lord, then you are His child! You have His name. You belong to Him! And He has made you some very specific promises that you need to appropriate.

1. God Loves You Unconditionally: **Romans 8:38-39** *"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

2. You Are Never Alone: **Hebrews 13:5** *"Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*
Psalms 23:4 *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."*

And there are so many more! When you pray and feel alone, say, "God, you know I'm lonely. You know that sometimes I get scared. But you told me in your Word that you never leave me, that you are always with me. And that you will comfort me. Lord, I need that right now. Lord, show me your glory." And God will hear and answer your prayer.

I) ACTIVATE THE FAVOR OF GOD: v 12

II) APPROPRIATE THE PROMISES OF GOD: v 13 So, we activate the favor of God by being men and women of faith. And we appropriate the promises of God, in our circumstances, and in our lives! Then notice...

III) ADHERE TO THE PERSON OF GOD: vv 14-16 *And the LORD answered, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." 15 "If Your Presence does not go with us," Moses replied, "do not lead us up from here. 16 For how then can it be known that Your people and I have found favor in Your sight, unless You go with us? How else will we be distinguished from all the other people on the face of the earth?"*

Did you hear it? Moses forfeited the Promised Land for the Presence of God. V 15 *"If Your Presence does not go with us," Moses replied, "do not lead us up from here."* God, we would rather be in your presence, near your person, than in the promised land without you. That's huge! Moses is saying, thank you for the PROMISE, and thank you for the PROPERTY, but if it's all the same with you, we would prefer your PRESENCE!

Have you ever been guilty of wanting God's stuff, wanting His blessings, but not really wanting to spend time in His presence? I know a lot of people like that. Things go south, and they cry out to God. They call wanting me and others to pray for God to move in their circumstance. But they haven't been to church in months or years. And they had no intention of going until something bad happened. And now they need God's help. And as soon as things start going well... they get a new job, or the test results come back negative, and the doctor says they are going to be okay, They leave the church and God again. They don't want to be in the presence of God, they just want His promises. LISTEN, do everything you can to stay near the PERSON of God. You should be willing to sacrifice everything to be in His presence! Now notice...

IV) APPEAL TO THE GLORY OF GOD: vv 17-18 *So the LORD said to Moses, "I will do this very thing you have asked, for you have found favor in My sight, and I know you by name." 18 Then Moses said, "Please show me Your glory."*

I love how Moses ends his part of the conversation. SHOW ME YOUR GLORY! He says, God, WHAT I NEED NOW, IS TO SEE YOU IN ALL YOUR GLORY! Now Moses didn't know what he was asking for, but I like how he asked. Notice what God said in reply...

vv 19-24 *"I will cause all My goodness to pass before you," the LORD replied, "and I will proclaim My name—the LORD—in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." 20 But He added, "You cannot see My face, for no one can see Me and live." 21 The LORD continued, "There is a place near Me where you are to stand upon a rock, 22 and when My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will take My hand away, and you will see My back; but My face must not be seen."*

Can you imagine that?!!! And it happened just like God said. And it had a profound affect on Moses. Notice what happened.

Exodus 34:29-30 *"And when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was unaware that his face had become radiant from speaking with the LORD. 30 Aaron and all the Israelites looked at Moses, and behold, his face was radiant. And they were afraid to approach him."* What the world needs now is to see a changed people who has spent time with God. Lord, let it be me!!!