

KHC - January 7-8, 2017
Exodus 33:11-23 "My Presence will go with you."
Pastor Jason Flentye

v 11

11 The Lord would speak with Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend...

- Moses was privileged to meet with the Lord and speak with Him in a familiarity that the Bible describes as talking with God face-to-face, as a man speaks with a friend.
 - (We know that phrase "face to face" is a figurative statement because, as we read later in verse 20, no one could see the actual face of God and live.)
- This language highlights for us the intimate relationship Moses had with God.
- God had given Moses a series of nearly impossible tasks - Choosing him to be the one to:
 - Bring God's people up out of slavery from Egypt
 - To assemble them in the nation of Israel
 - And to lead the Israelites into the Promise Land.
- God knew Moses, and Moses knew God intimately.
 - So intimately that he made a series of bold requests to God in the following verses.

vs 12-13

12 Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but You have not let me know whom You will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with Me.' 13 If You are pleased with me, teach me Your ways so that I may know You and continue to find favor with You. Remember that this nation is Your people."

- Moses is referring to previous times in the precluding chapters of Exodus, when God had told him that He would send His angel to go before Moses as he leads the people (23:23, 32:34, 33:2).
- Moses seems to be concerned with the adequacy of the unidentified angel that God is sending with him.
- Moses desperately requests God's own presence to be the one to guide and protect them on this journey.
- Moses reminds God of a few things: 1) God knows him by name, 2) God is pleased with Moses, and 3) these people are His chosen people.
 - These restatements to God of what He has said are not a means to remind God of something that He may have forgotten.
 - Rather, it is Moses speaking in intimate relation with God, pleading for assurance that the LORD has said, "I have singled you out Moses, and chosen you for this time and purpose."
 - Moses does not want to go any farther on this assignment unless he is positive that the Lord has the right guy for the job.

- He is worshipfully expressing to God, "You have been merciful to us, we cannot go on without Your continued mercy.'
- In verse 13 we see Moses ask God to teach him His ways.
 - In order for Moses to carry out his calling, he knows God must show Him the way.
 - Look at the purpose for which Moses makes this request: so that I may know you, and continue to find favor with you.
 - Moses wants to know God's ways so that he can continue to please God.
 - Moses may be making bold requests to God, but we see his heart is to honor the Lord with every request he makes.

v 14

14 The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

- On the brink of this overwhelming and terrifying assignment, Moses asks for another depth of assurance from God.
- God's answer? - "My Presence will go with you."
- The very presence of God will go with him.
 - He still doesn't know what the journey will be like,
 - Or where exactly God is taking them,
 - Or even what roads will be taken.
- But, God promises him that He will be with him.
- And then He further promises, that He will give Moses rest.
- This rest means a few things:
 - Physical rest - assurance of God's security to protect them until they rest in the Promised Land
 - Spiritual rest - assurance of God's guidance to give them rest day by day along the journey
 - Eternal rest - assurance of a final and complete rest with their God in heaven

vs 15-16

15 Then Moses said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. 16 How will anyone know that You are pleased with me and with Your people unless You go with us? What else will distinguish me and Your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

- Look at the humility and desperation of Moses' response - as if to say, "We don't want to take more step unless You are with us."
- His next statement continues to show us how deeply he was concerned with God getting all the credit -
 - "We are your people. The whole world should know that! And the only way for anyone to know that we are your people is if you are with us."
 - The Israelites needed to know they were distinguished as God's people or they could not endure the journey
 - The rest of the world was to know that Israel is God's people, because God chose Israel to be his witness to the nations.
 - The distinguishing mark? The presence of God.
- Moses met with the Lord in a tent and received private assurances. When we stepped out of the tent, his private assurances became a public witness.

v 17

17 And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

- This seems to be the request that God has been waiting for Moses to ask - (not the request for His Presence to provide guidance and protection), but the humble request for His Presence so that the whole world will know that He alone is God.
- God's response? 'I will grant your request.'
- Why? Because God is pleased with Moses.
- And because of the second half on the reason: "I know you by name."
 - This statement carries great weight to it. In Old Testament times, that statement "I know you by name," meant that:
 - God was familiar with Moses in every sense. He knew him since before his birth. He knew him when he was placed by his mother in a basket in the Nile River in Egypt. He numbered every hair on Moses' head. He ordained every breath Moses would breathe.
 - Not only did this refer to God's knowing Moses, it had a direct connotation that God had selected Moses, singled him out, and called him for this specific purpose, at this specific time, to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land to give them rest.

v 18

18 Then Moses said, "Now show me Your glory."

- Now look at Moses' response - "Show me your glory."
- Show me your glory?!? Do you realize what you are asking?!?
 - Moses, God spoke to you through a burning bush.
 - You saw the 10 plagues.
 - You saw God part the Red Sea so that you and Israel could escape Pharaoh and his army.
 - God miraculously provided manna for the people when they were hungry. God miraculously provided water from a rock when they were thirsty.
 - God speaks with you face to face as a man speaks with his friend. ... Have you not seen enough?!
- But it wasn't Moses lack of satisfaction with God that made this request.
 - It was his intimate relationship with God that allowed him to know, you are infinite, and as much as I have seen, I still only know so little of you. I want more of you. In fact you are all that I want to know.

- This is the climax of the passage for me. "Show me Your glory, O God."

You are all I want to know.

If I have everything in the world, but I don't have you, then I am
poor.

But if I have You and nothing else, I am the richest man that ever lived.

You are all I want to know.

- Moses saw God perform more miracles than maybe anyone else in the Old Testament. He wasn't asking for a miraculous provision though. He was asking to see the face of God.
- He wanted to know God in the deepest way.
- As I studied this text, I heard God asking me, "Do you want the same thing, Jason?"
- You ask me for My guidance, for My protection, for My healing, for My provision, but do you want Me? Are you satisfied with Me alone?
- More than my desire for my goals and resolutions to be met, I want to find total and complete satisfaction in knowing You God.
- I want to see as much of Your glory that I can handle.

vs 19-23

19 And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim My name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 20 But," He said, "you cannot see My face, for no one may see Me and live."

21 Then the LORD said, "There is a place near Me where you may stand on a rock. 22 When My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will remove My hand and you will see My back; but My face must not be seen."

- And here we see God's gracious answer.
- You want to see My glory? You cannot handle My glory. You could not survive My glory. But I will show you as much as can be seen.
- Before I go on, I'd like to make a few comments on God's glory.

Certainly, my words will be insufficient to describe what God's glory truly is, but let me at least attempt to offer something.

- God's glory is the revelation of who He is - in His character, His nature, His being - His light is blinding, His truth is absolute, His purity is unmarred, His holiness is consuming, His righteousness is dangerous, His judgment is just, His love is unending, His peace is perfection, His grace is immeasurable. God's glory is the revelation of all that He is.
- Fractions of God's glory are seen many various ways - seen in the beauty of nature, or felt in the love between people, or heard in

musical compositions, or smelled in a fragrance, tasted in food ...
but these experiences are but a fraction of the infinite totality of
all that God is. The glory of God is the full and complete
revelation of who He is.

- That is what Moses asked for. And God said, I will show you as
much as you can handle without perishing. Because humans
could not survive an encounter with the full glory of God. We
would disintegrate from the presence of His holiness.
- So why then would we want to see it or experience it?
- Because, there is nothing else that exists that can compare to it.
- The closer we get to God, the more we recognize how far we
actually are, how much bigger He is than we actually realize,
how much holier He is than we realize, how much greater is His
love than we realize...

GOSPEL CENTRALITY

- How does this passage point to Jesus?
- Do we see the coming of God's Son in this passage?

GOD'S GLORY

- We talked about Moses seeing God's glory.

Exodus 33:18

Then Moses said, "Now show me Your glory."

- Through the New Covenant, God actually comes to earth. For all to see Him, and know Him, and receive Him.

Hebrews 1:3

The Son is the radiance of God's glory...

John 1:14

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

- In the Exodus passage, God revealed Himself to one man - Moses, but here in John's gospel we see that God revealed Himself to all mankind through His Son Jesus.
- The point is that God sent His glory, in His Son, available for all people - not just one man to see.

GOD'S PROMISED PRESENCE and GOD'S REST

- As we look at Moses and his assignment to lead the people through the wilderness, we might be prone to think - well, I don't have anything that crazy going on in my life.
- But thoughts like that are lies and distractions from Satan to keep us from seeking God in our own circumstances that are personally overwhelming.
- His task to lead the people to the Promised Land, is no greater than your role as a mom or dad raising a child, or the man or woman that desires a spouse, or an employee at his/her job, or the person being taken to court, or the person battling cancer, or the student struggling with grades, or the athlete rehabilitating an injury ...
- We are all in need of God's assurance that He is with us. We all need to hear His promises to Moses:

Exodus 33:14

The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

- Recall last week's sermon, when Kapena taught on Matthew 11.

Matthew 11:28-29

(Jesus said,) "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from

me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

- Moses was looking for assurance that God would be with him.
- Jesus doesn't wait for the request - He has initiated - He has invited - He has said "Come to me... and I will give you rest."
- All of you who are weary and burdened by your life's circumstances that seem impossible - come to me and you will find rest for your soul.
- And to trace this one step farther - His promised presence is His Holy Spirit living in us, as we face adversity and uncertainty in life, His Spirit is our confidence and assurance that He is with us, always, and we can have rest on the journey, and in finality with Him in heaven.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

1. What has God called you to do this year (this season of your life)? What assignment has He put on your heart that seems to be nearly impossible?
2. What assurance(s) do you need from God to be able to persevere and endure the journey He has you on?
3. Are you requesting to know His perfect and good ways, so that you can know Him better, and honor Him, and hear Him say, 'I am pleased with you.'?
4. Have you received God's promise of His presence to be with you on the journey that He has you on?
5. Are you experiencing the blessing(s) of His promised rest?
6. Are you so reliant on God that you are unwilling to move unless you are confident that He is with you?
7. What private assurances has God given to you that are producing a public witness? (A private assurance from Scripture and/or prayer; and public witnessing that He is your God, and you are following Him, and all credit is due His honor.)
8. Are you willing to ask the Lord, "Show me Your glory - as much as I can handle."?