

Exodus 33

May 23, 2021 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Exodus 33:1-3 - Then the Lord said to Moses, “Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up to the land I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘I’ll give it to your descendants.’ I’ll send an angel before you, and I’ll drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; *but* I won’t go with you, lest I consume you on the way, for you’re a stiff-necked people.”

v. 4-5 - When the people heard this *disastrous* news, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments. ⁵ For the Lord had said to Moses, “Say to the people of Israel, ‘You’re a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I’d consume you.’”

Psalm 5 - God can’t tolerate the sins of the wicked. The boastful can’t stand in His presence.

v. 7-11 - Moses took *his tent* and pitched it *outside the camp*, *far from the camp*, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the Lord went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp. ⁸ So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he’d gone into the tabernacle. ⁹ And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. ¹⁰ All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door. ¹¹ So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

1. A Personal Request

v. 12-13 - Then Moses said to the Lord, “See, You say to me, ‘Bring up this people.’ But You haven’t let me know whom You’ll send with me. Yet You’ve said, ‘I know

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you by name, and you've also found grace in My sight.' 13 Now therefore, I pray, if I've found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way."

Brother Lawrence: *The most holy practice, the nearest to daily life, and the most essential for the spiritual life, is the practice of the presence of God, that is to find joy in His divine company and to make it a habit of life, speaking humbly and conversing lovingly with Him at all times, every moment, without rule or restriction, above all at times of temptation, distress, dryness, and revulsion, and even of faithlessness and sin.*

v. 14 - *God said, "My Presence will go with you, and I'll give you rest."*

2. A National Request

v. 15 - Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence doesn't go with us, don't bring us up from here."

v. 17 - So the Lord said to Moses, "I'll also do this thing that you've spoken; for you've found grace in My sight, and I know you by name."

3. A Relational Request

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v. 18 - Moses said, “Please show me Your glory.”

v. 19-23 - Then He said, “I'll make all My goodness pass before you, and I'll proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I'll be gracious to whom I'll be gracious, and I'll have compassion on whom I'll have compassion.”²⁰ But He said, “You can't see My face; for no man can see Me, and live.”²¹ And the Lord said, “Here's a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock.²² So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I'll put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by.²³ Then I'll take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.”

v. 34:1-3 - And the Lord said to Moses, “Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I'll write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke. 2 So be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain. 3 And no man shall come up with you, and let no man be seen throughout all the mountain; let neither flocks nor herds feed before that mountain.”

Foreshadowing

Moses: Escaped being killed as a baby
Jesus: Escaped being killed as a baby

Moses: Wasn't an Egyptian, but lived among Egyptians to preserve his life when he was an infant.
Jesus: Wasn't an Egyptian, but lived among Egyptians to preserve his life when He was an infant.

Moses: Was raised with the legal right to become a king but he belonged to a nation that was oppressed by a pagan, foreign government (Egypt)
Jesus: Was raised with the legal right to become a king but He belonged to a nation that was oppressed by a pagan, foreign government (Rome)

Moses: Freed his people from slavery through the blood of a spotless lamb.
Jesus: Freed His people from the slavery of sin by His own blood.

Moses: Spent 40 years in the wilderness.
Jesus: Spent 40 days in the wilderness.

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Moses: Fasted for 40 days and 40 nights on Mt. Sinai.

Jesus: Fasted 40 days and 40 nights.

Moses: Gave a code to live by from a mountain (Ten Commandments)

Jesus: Gave a code to live by from a mountain (Sermon on the Mount)

Hebrews 7:25 - He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.

v. 34:4-7 - So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone.⁵ Now the Lord descended in the cloud (and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord.⁶ And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

v. 8-9 - So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.⁹ Then he said, "If now I've found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we're a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance."

Drew Dyck: In a recent TV commercial a young man is struggling with whether to go through with an arranged marriage. In his home country arranged marriages were the norm. But after living in America, he was having second thoughts about adhering to this ancient custom, especially since he'd never met his wife-to-be.

Still, when she flew into the airport, he dutifully waited for her, flowers in hand, and a gloomy expression on his face. But when she stepped through the terminal, everything changed. She was beautiful! Suddenly his glum demeanor disappeared. The thought of marrying this woman was no longer a dreaded duty; it was a delight. What had changed? He'd seen her.

Often we serve God out of obligation. We drag ourselves to church, force ourselves to serve others—but our hearts aren't in it. We're like that guy at the airport, grudgingly holding flowers for God. We're trying to live holy lives because we know we should, but it's burdensome, joyless.

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What can change this? Seeing God. When we get a vision of who God truly is, suddenly we're energized to do his mission. Once we gaze upon his grandeur and glory, obedience ceases to be arduous. Once we grasp his great love, serving is no longer a duty—it's a joy

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Moses' Three Requests

1. A Personal Request

2. A National Request

3. A Relational Request