

AUGUST 21st
GOD'S HONOR AT STAKE

*"And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you." But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people." **EXODUS 32:9-12***

What would you say is the most meaningful prayer ever given? I know that we aren't supposed to quantify prayer, but we still do it a lot. So, I'll reframe the question this way: what is the most holy prayer that you've ever heard? Think about it for a minute. What would someone pray to God that would make a prayer "holy," "the most significant", or "the deepest?" Of course, any prayer uttered to God in humility is a deep prayer, one that we can imitate as we approach God. I think Jesus' prayer to the Father, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" is the greatest prayer...and there's one that comes closely in second. Interested yet? It's Moses intercession for God's sinful people that have just finished a giant orgy that they believed was worship of the LORD. What does God show us here?

You'll have to read the beginning of Exodus 32 and the end of Exodus 32 to get the full picture of Moses' prayer. Notice what he prays in verse 32: "But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written." Wow! Did you get that? Moses just prayed for him to be damned so the rest of the people could be saved! That's a special kind of love and intercession, more significant than all other loves (other than the cross). Essentially, Moses is saying to kill him so the people can live. This request shows what Moses prayed and the intensity of it, but it still doesn't give us his motive for praying it. We discover that motive earlier in Exodus 32.

What does Moses say to God when God says that He will wipe out the people for their sin? Did you notice the statement in verse 12? In case you missed it, here is what Moses said to God: "Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'?" Moses motive for his action is...the glory of God. He's concerned about what Egypt will say about God if the people are all destroyed. But do you know what makes this motivation even more impressive? Just before this intercession, God offers to start over with...Moses. Moses doesn't even bat an eye at what God just said. It's as if he ignores God's statement because he's so concerned about God's reputation. But why? Why would this hurt God's reputation? Because it would bring the LORD down to the level of the false gods of Egypt. Moses is concerned with God's honor and glory. He wants people to see the greatness of God.

Men, can we pause for a moment to make God's honor supreme in our minds and hearts? Can we take moments today to ask God to show people in all the world the greatness of His glory? Why not start with your spouse and your children? Spend time together asking God to reveal His glory to the people that you encounter today. It's the same idea of Matthew 6, "Hallowed be your Name." Let's make it a regular practice that God's glory is supreme in all that we do or think.

Spend some time thinking about five things about God that are glorious. Praise and thank Him for who He is.

Further Reading: Exodus 32:15-35

