

AUGUST 24th
SHOW ME YOUR GLORY

“And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?” And the Lord said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Please show me your glory.””

EXODUS 33:15-18

Tony Evans tells a story of a first-grade classroom. The teacher instructed them to draw anything that they would like and use crayons to fill it in with color. As the teacher walked around the classroom, she would ask the students what they were drawing. One young boy answered her, “I’m drawing a picture of God.” How do you think the teacher responded? “Well, Chet, no one knows what God looks like.” Chet responded without looking up from his paper, “They will when I’m done with my drawing!” Only a child could have such a bold response! It brings to mind an important concept...the attributes of God. What would you say if someone asked you, “What’s God like?”

Moses had already encountered God in ways that we can only fathom. Sure, we’ve been brought into salvation alone through faith alone in Christ alone, but last time I looked you have never seen a bush burning and not being consumed by the fire. But Moses wanted more of God, because that’s how He’s made us. Saint Augustine wrote in his “Confessions” that “God has made us for Thyself, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in You.” Moses had tasted God’s glory and wanted more. He was bold enough to ask God to show Him more. What does God teach us here?

God shows two things to Moses (and to us) here. God makes all His goodness pass before Moses and proclaims the name of the LORD. God’s name here is important to notice. Remember back in Exodus 3 what God says when He reveals Himself to Moses the first time? The LORD means “I will be what I will be” or “I am who I am.” God reminds Moses here that He is self-existent. He depends on no one for His existence and is the source of how everything happens in human history. That proclamation is significant for what follows from God: “And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.” God acts according to His perfect plan and design...eternally. But there’s one more thing about what God says here in Moses’ encounter. God says that no one can see Him and live. So what does God do to show Moses His glory? Many people might recall that God places Moses in a rock, but the same people might have left something out...He uses His hand to protect Moses. You might be asking, “Protect Moses from what?” The answer is God. God is serious when He says that no one can see Him and live. His perfection is too great for anyone to see fully. God only gives a small taste. Phil Ryken points out that we often think about God’s hand as protecting us from others, that we seek the hand of God for shelter (Isaiah 51). Indeed, here God uses His hand to shelter...except it’s not used to shelter from others, the hand is used to protect from God’s glory!

Men, how can we take this account and learn from it? Our call is to be bold with God. Because of Jesus, we can see God and live. And yet, we only see small glimpses of what God has shown us in the Scriptures. We also are tainted with sin. It’s like you have sunglasses on that have red lenses. You’ll see everything with red. When you ask God to show you His glory, you’re asking Him to give you a new outlook to see Him in new ways and to wow you with His glory. We say the same thing when we sing, “Be Thou My Vision...”. Why not make this your prayer today and every day? Lord, please show me your glory today. Remove my sinful, stained heart so I can see your greatness and your glory today.

Spend some time thinking about God’s glory. Ask Him to wow you with His goodness and grace today.

Further Reading: PSALM 103