

# Exodus 33

As a Man Speaks to a Friend

## I. Leaving Sinai: Disciplined but not Forsaken

1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.'

- **Then/When:** After the Plague; after inevitable consequences of sin...
  1. God still answers Moses prayer
  2. God still remembers His promise first given to Abraham

**Genesis 12:1** ...the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- **God's Promise to** Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:
  1. **Physical Blessing:** Land/Great Nation
  2. **Spiritual Blessing:** All families of the earth will be blessed [Jesus]

**God's promise always comes with God's provision**

2 And I will send **My Angel** before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

- **My Angel:** Jesus Christ has been, is now, and will be leading them
- Application God guides ahead of us and protects behind us

**Isaiah 52:12** For you shall not go out with haste, Nor go by flight; For the Lord will go before you, And the God of **Israel will be your rear guard.**

- Surrounds those who trust Him; fear Him

**Psalm 34: 7** The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.

- Jesus the Angel of the Lord in Exodus:

**Exodus 3:2** ...the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

**Exodus 14:19** ...the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.

**Exodus 23:20** "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you

into the place which I have prepared.

**Exodus 23:23** ...My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off. [See Joshua]

- Angel of the Lord Jesus Christ will be with them in Exodus and through Joshua
  1. Manna God provided now stops raining down from heaven
  2. God still provided but they now need to seek out nourishment

### **Time to grow up...but God is still leading**

**Joshua 5:13** [Read] And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" 14 So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" 15 Then the Commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

- **No chapter break:** Jesus continues with then into Joshua 6

**Joshua 6:1** [Read] Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. 2 And the Lord said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. 3 You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once.

- **I will send My Angel before you...**

3 Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for **I will not go up** in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."

### **God incites a response from the people:**

I will lead you as I promised...but you will not enjoy my intimate presence

- **Emmaus:** Jesus acted as though He were going farther to get them to ask to stay
- **Water:** Jesus intended to pass by them NASB/would have passed by them NKJV

### **God may do/allow something in our life to cause us to cry out to Him**

4 And when the people heard this **bad news**, they mourned, and **no one put on his ornaments**. 5 For the Lord had said to Moses, "Say to the children of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people. I could come up into your midst in one moment and consume you. Now therefore, take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do to you.'" 6 So the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by Mount Horeb.

- **Bad news to a "stiff necked people" 3x** i.e. I am going to do it my way
- God sends Moses with a message and command for the people:

1. **Message:** I will lead you...but from afar

2. **Command:** Take off your ornaments...

**...that I may know what to do to you.**

- **Take off ornaments?** Pagan ornaments from Egypt left over from the cow

**Testing their heart. Is the journey going to be about you or ME?**

- If it's about you I'm not going: I do not share My glory!
- If it's about me **then prove it...**

3. Stop decorating yourselves
4. Stop thinking about yourselves
5. Stop focusing on yourself

Stop your obsession on outward appearance...**it your heart that matters**

**1 Samuel 16:7** [Samuel wanted to the best looking to be King of Israel] ...But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the **Lord looks at the heart.**"

- **God looks at the heart:** Pharisees were "whitewashed tombs"

1. **Integrity**

- What you do when the door is closed, no one's watching
- Do you do what you say you are going to do

Lose all rather than lose your integrity, and when all else is gone, still hold fast a clear conscience as the rarest jewel which can adorn the bosom of a mortal. [Spurgeon]

There is more honour in being defeated in the truth than in a thousand victories gained by...falsehood. [Spurgeon]

2. **Commitment**

- To family, friends, God
- Self-discipline; reading, praying, meditating on God and His Word

3. **Purity**

- Fleeing from sexual sin
- Not walking in darkness

4. **Selflessness**

- God first, others second and us last
- Counting others more important than self

5. **Truth**

- Truth in the inward being
- Telling the truth even to our hurt

**You might have everyone else fooled but God sees the heart.**

- David was a man after God's own heart
- Moses was a man of humility. Teachable. I God's economy...**Reachable.**

**Command:** Take off your ornaments so I may know what to do to you...by your response?

This was a challenge to Moses and the nation as a whole. God told them they could have the Promised Land, but He **would not** remain with them in a close, personal way. If they were satisfied with that arrangement, it would prove they only loved God's blessings and not God Himself. [Guzic]

- **People had to again make a choice:** Are you on the Lord's side? Cf. Baptism
- **Right Response:** Mourning/Repentance; People obeyed/took off their ornaments

**Without God's presence everything we have *is and will* never be enough**

**"I am your shield and very great reward"**

**Summary Leaving Sinai:** Disciplined but not Forsaken. Israel passes the test. Turn their hearts toward God

## II. Face to Face: As a Man Speaks to a Friend

7 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.

- Tabernacle [Tent of Meeting] in process of construction
- Moses sets up his own tent far from the people
- **Temporary** "Tabernacle of Meeting" waiting for construction

**Seeking the Lord now took effort. Self-Discipline and Commitment**

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 had gone into the tabernacle.

- Fear of God/ Reverence toward God /Desire for God's Word **after affliction**
  1. 3000 Dead
  2. Plague

**Psalm 119:67** Before I was afflicted **I went astray**, But now I keep Your word. 68 You are good, and do good; Teach me Your statutes.

- God's discipline is good

**Hebrews 12:11** ...no chastening **seems to be joyful** for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- **God will use Plague/Affliction to get our attention:**

1. Loss
  2. Embarrassing situation
  3. Humbling circumstance
  4. Physical malady
  5. Hard time
  6. Any number of things designed specifically for each of us
- God's cooperate church discipline **first subtracts but them multiplies**
  - First century church purified before growth...
    1. Ananias and Sapphira his wife sold a possession
    2. He kept back part of the proceeds and his wife aware of it
    3. Brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet and said it was all
    4. God takes them both out and cleanses the church of hypocrisy

**Acts 5:11** So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. 12 And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. 13 **Yet none of the rest dared join them**, but the people esteemed them highly. 14 And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women

Divine affliction if embraced by a teachable heart will lead to Fear of God/Reverence toward God/Desire for God's Word and ultimately great growth

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.

- Shekinah Glory of God at the Door of Moses Tent
- God speaks to 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.

- **People see Moses intimacy with God**
  1. See God's Glory
  2. See a simple man enjoying sweet fellowship with God
  3. People get up/stand in the door/watch this transaction/worship
- One purpose of the Church is to provoke Israel to jealousy

**Romans 11:11** I say then, [has Israel] stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.

- People should see our relationship with God and be provoked to want the same
  1. Not weirdoes
  2. Not freaks
  3. Not odd-balls [JV McGee]
  4. Not self-righteous prideful phony cookie-cutter bible bashing robots

Unsaved should see a blood bought saint who knows their desperate need of a Savior and has found Him. We should be a sweet smelling aroma to those who are seeking God.

- People see Moses intimacy with God and begin to worship

**11 So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.**

- No man has seen God: **1 John 4:12**
- **Face to face:** Figurative or the type of relationship
- As a man speaks to a friend...

**John 15:15** No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

- **Intimacy with God:** Figuratively "Face to face" will one day be literal

**1 Corinthians 13:12** ...now we see in a mirror, dimly, but **then face to face**. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

- **Face to face:** Moses speaking with Angel of Lord Jesus Christ. God cloaked flesh

**11b...** And [Moses] would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.

- Moses done speaking but Joshua stays

**Speaks volumes of reason God would trust Joshua would take the torch.  
Never enough God**

**SUMMARY Face to Face:** As a Man Speaks to a Friend

### **III. Promise of Presence**

**12** Then Moses said to the Lord, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' 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 also found grace in My sight.'

- **You say you love me?**
  1. You know me by name
  2. You noticed that I found grace in your sight. Lit saw Your beauty
  3. You gave me a mission to deliver "**this**" people but...

**I can't do this alone.** No disrespect intended but I won't do this alone

**13** Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now **Your way**, that I may **know You** and that I may **find grace** in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people."

**Show me Your way that I may know You and find grace**

- **Show me Your Way:** "Not My will but Your will be done"
- **That I may Know You:**

**Philippians 3:7** [Read] But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the **excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be **found in Him**, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection

- **Moses greatest desire as Paul...**to know Him

**I pray I may find grace:** God's favor toward man needed to lead the people  
**....And consider that this nation is Your people."**

14 And [God] said, "My Presence will go **with you**, and I will give you rest."

- **Q.** Who will go with me?
- **A.** I will go WITH YOU

#### **How does God show His grace?**

1. **His Presence:** Knowing He is with us: I will never leave you nor forsake you
2. **His Rest:** Knowing He is for us: Resting in Him and His care for us

**Psalms 46:1** [Read] God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3 Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah 4 There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. 5 God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. 6 The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. 7 The Lord of hosts **is with us**; The God of Jacob **is our refuge**.

- **Presence and Rest:** He is with us and He is for us so let's move out
- **God:** I will go with you Moses

**Moses advocates/intercedes for the people**  
**Heart of a leader: I know you go with me but what about the people?**

15 Then [Moses] said to [God], "If Your Presence does not go **with us**, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth." 17 So the Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name."

- God relents

**v. 3** *I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."*

Moses astounded at God's merciful response to now **go with the people**

- **Moses can't help but to say...**

**18 And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."**

- **Moses wants to know God...**
  1. Even more than as a friend
  2. Even more than face to face...

**John 14:20** [Spirit indwelling believers]... you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you...**23...**"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him.**

- **Moses wants "more" God:** Please...show me Your glory!

**19 Then [God] said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you.**

- Sinful Mortals in presence of Holy God disintegrate v.20
- **But I will do this...**
  1. I will show ALL **My Goodness** to you

God's glory lies in His goodness. When Moses saw the glory of God, His first understanding was that God was good. If we don't know that God is good, we don't know much about Him at all. [Guzic]

**To truly know God you must acknowledge that He is good. Completely good.**

2. I will proclaim **My Name** to you
  - Attributes/character/nature

**19b...I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."**

- **Pharaoh and Moses:** Commonality both sinners

**Romans 9:14** [Read] What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! 15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." 16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." 18 Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills **He hardens.**

- **God showed his wrath to Pharaoh**
  1. Gave pharaoh a command: Let My people go
  2. Pharaohs answer? Who is the LORD that I should obey Him
  3. Pharaoh hardened his heart 3x before God gave him over
- **God showed His mercy to Moses**
  1. Teachable and humble



**James 4:6** "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

**Proverbs 3:34** Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble. 35 The wise shall inherit glory, But shame shall be the legacy of fools.

- See Romans I for God "giving people over" to their own sin.
- **Moses:** Please show Me you glory

20 But [God] said [to Moses], "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."

- Seeing God's face without a buffer is certain death

21 And the Lord said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. 22 So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by."

- **Father's caring plan for His son:**

1. Stand on the rock I show you
2. My **Glory** will pass; lit. the weight of who God is
3. As I move closer to you "I will put you in the cleft of the rock"
4. I will cover the opening of the cave with My hand

23 Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

God rewarded the desire of Moses to see His glory as much as humanly possible. This demonstrates that **God rewards the seeking heart.** [Guzic]

"You shalt see a shadow or obscure delineation of my glory, as much as you can bear, though not as much as you desire." [Poole] **Yet.**