

National Sin and Holy Longings

An exposition of Exodus 33
at West Hills San Jose on June 7, 2020

PASTORAL PRAYER: Lord Almighty, King of Creation, Giver of life and death, Holy Sovereign who sets the stars in place and says to the thunderous seas, you shall go this far and no further, hallowed be your name. If you O LORD should mark iniquities, O Lord who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness that you may be feared. Our soul waits for you Lord, and in your Word we hope. Our soul waits for you LORD, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

Lord we bring the longings of all creation before your throne this morning. And we ask that your kingdom would come and your will would be done on earth as it is in heaven. Would you establish the throne of your son upon the earth, so that all nations would flood to Him, and He would establish righteousness and justice in the world. Would you heal our country from racism, and from corruptions of power. Would you grant wisdom and insight and understanding to us, that we might better understand how to deal with these issues at a deeper level. Within ourselves. With one another, and as communities.

And Lord I pray for your Church. Would we be salt and light in the world. Would you help us be quick to listen and slow to speak, would you help us to love our neighbors as ourselves and not to assume we already know what that means. And I pray for our church. Would you strengthen us to love each other and to care for each other as we seek to love our neighbors. We pray for baby Faith MacConnell, we thank you for a successful heart surgery. We pray that you would strengthen her and raise her up and cause her to flourish in the world. I pray for her parents, Ryan and Audrey. Would you grant them faith, patience and perseverance in this process, as well as love for one another. And I pray for all of those engaged in foster care right now, would you establish them in love and faithfulness, would you encourage their hearts with the love of Christ and grant them love for the children in their homes, compassion for the children's parents, and patience with an underfunded and understaffed system.

Finally Father, I pray for our time together in your word. Would you help us to hear and listen and think critically. Would you nourish our souls on your holy Word and transform us, from one degree of glory to another. We ask that you would speak O Lord, your servants are listening. In Christ's name, amen.

PROBLEM: What should I do? How should I think about this? That is a question I have discussed a lot this week with many of you concerning not only the national protests but also the pressure on social media to say things, and post things right away. It has been my observation after 34 years of life that a rash response is rarely a wise one. Often the emotion surrounding a situation will cloud your judgment and lead you to make impulsive, if not unwise choices or decisions.

But once you have thought about these things, and processed them and you have resolved that you need to act the question again becomes: what should I do? And with everything else in life, it's probably helpful to clarify what you would like to see. What SHOULD things be like if

all the problems were gone. And once you have clarified what you want to see, then you can develop a plan for how to go about bringing those things to pass.

And so it would seem, that the most important thing to have straight in your own mind brothers and sisters, is what do you want to see? To have direction. To have a goal. And you can start with small goals. And work toward bigger goals. Goal #1, I want to love my neighbor as myself. How can I love my African American neighbors in my neighborhood or city, as myself? But as you begin unpacking what you really want to see...and the goals get bigger, and bigger, and more challenging and more complex. Some of them feel like they are fixable. I want their to be a better means of accountability in place for police officers who develop a tendency to abuse their power. Some of them feel more deeply tragic and far more difficult to ever imagine achieving...I don't want their to be any more racism. I don't just want the police officers who abused their power to get justice, I want them to be truly sorry for what they've done.

And if you begin to go down the list of what I think everyone really wants to see, we all actually want to see the exact same thing, we just don't realize it. Here is my main point from the passage:

MAIN POINT: What you truly long for, is to see the glory of God. So glorify Him with your life!

SETTING THE CONTEXT: Please open your bibles to Exodus 33, we are back in our series in the book of Exodus and we are picking up where we left off in the golden calf story. So to catch us back up, the people of Israel had become enslaved in Egypt and God led them out with mighty wonders and judgements. He then brought them through the wilderness to Himself that they might serve Him. The people came to the foot of mount Sinai where God entered into covenant with them, giving them His law and the promise of His blessing, care, and provision. The people agreed to the covenantal terms, and sealed their oath with the shedding of blood and a feast.

And after, God laid out the terms of the relationship, once He explained what life would and would not look like under His dominion, He began to unpack how the people could safely draw near to Him for communion. The plans for the tabernacle, and the preparation of the priesthood, was God signaling to His people, that the aim of all these things was not just to give you land and seed, but the restoration of fellowship between God and man. And as God finished explaining to Moses, how He and His people could draw close to one another once again, the people of Israel were at the base of the mountain trying to accomplish this feat in their own sinful way. They had formed an idol of gold, and were worshipping it as if it represented the Elohim who had brought them up out of Egypt. And we saw two weeks ago, that Moses had smashed the tablets of the law, symbolizing that the covenant had been broken, the Levites were called to put to death every unrepentant idolater, and the whole nation had to smash and burn and consume the idol powder, representing it's utter desacralization.

And as. Moses went up the mountain, it seemed that the entire plan of redemption hung in the balance. Could Moses make atonement for the peoples sin? And we saw that God was gracious, he would forgive sin, but he would by no means clear the guilty, there would still be discipline for their disobedience. And so a plague came and afflicted the people for a time. In the aftermath of that event, we now turn in our text...let's open our minds and humble our hearts...

READING: [1] The LORD said to Moses, “Depart; go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘To your offspring I will give it.’ [2] I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. [3] Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.”

[4] When the people heard this disastrous word, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments. [5] For the LORD had said to Moses, “Say to the people of Israel, ‘You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you. So now take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do with you.’” [6] Therefore the people of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments, from Mount Horeb onward.

[7] Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. [8] Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. [9] When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. [10] And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. [11] Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

[12] 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 favor in my sight.’ [13] Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” [14] And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” [15] And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. [16] 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?”

[17] 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.” [18] Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” [19] And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. [20] But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” [21] And the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, [22] and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. [23] Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.” (ESV)

PRAYER: Open our eyes to behold wonderful things in your Law. In Christ’s name, amen.

ROAD MAP: 1.) Responding to National sin, 2.) Fearing the God of All Grace, 3.) What Every Heart Truly Longs for

RESPONDING TO NATIONAL SIN

1. So let's look down at our text. In verses 1-3 God basically says get up, get going to Canaan, the land that I swore to your fathers, I will send AN angel (we went from my angel to an angel), and he will help you fight the inhabitants of the land.
2. And then something remarkable happens in verse 3...he says go on and take your inheritance...and leads by reminding them of all the good stuff that awaits them...go to A LAND...a home...the place that will be yours forever...that is FLOWING, it's not a place of scarcity, it's a place that overflows with resources. And not just any resource...it's flowing with milk and honey, luxurious commodities that signify abundance. Go get your land overflowing with all the stuff your heart has been longing for...BUT I will not go with you.
3. You can have all my blessings, but you won't get me. If I go up among you verse 3, I might consume you on the way for you are a stiff-necked people. Stiff-necked means stubborn or unrelenting in your own purposes, and to consume them is like when you take a piece of paper and throw it into a hot fire...it lights up brightly for like 3 seconds and then it wilts immediately becomes powder and ash and disappears into the flames...it is consumed.
4. God says, you can have the stuff but you don't get me, because your sin may lead me to destroy you. How does your heart respond to that offer?
 1. How close do YOU want to be to our God? The closer we come to God and the closer that He comes to us, the more noxious and dreadful our sins become and the more painful the repentance begins to feel. If you simply give yourself freedom to sin and sin and sin without repentance God doesn't come near, until you break.
 2. But if you desire to be close to God, your life probably looks like I sin, and I experience the grief of conviction and then I experience the utter joy of my forgiveness and salvation. The utter joy of restored relationship and reconciliation to the God of grace.
 3. Would you rather have God or the stuff? Would you rather have gift, or Giver? Let me put it to you differently. Would you rather have a mountain of gold, or rest for your souls? Would you rather own a field full of lilies, or would you rather hear a field full of lilies preaching to you that God is going to care for all your needs. Would you rather have a million homes built upon sand...or one home built upon rock?
 4. Wealth, riches are like salt water. Ecclesiastes 5:10 says He who loves money will not be satisfied with money...nor will he who loves wealth be satisfied with his income. That says two things. First it says money, stuff can't satisfy you. And second it says if you love money you will want more and more of it. The curse of loving money is that the more you get the more you want, and no matter how much you acquire the greater the hole in your soul will become. It cannot satisfy it can only insatiate. It is saltwater. The more you drink the more dehydrated you become.
 5. God on the other hand, is a river of delight. A fountain of joy, springs of pure water in the valley of weeping. A Faithful King who gives life and blessing to those He loves. What would you rather have, God or His stuff? The question under that question is really "do

you actually want to be happy yes or no? Don't settle for cheap happiness. When deep, and wide and rich happiness is freely available to you in your God.

5. Coming back to our text, God says in verse 3, you can have my stuff but you can't have me. Go on ahead, I'll see you guys later. Verse 4 When the people this disastrous, terrible, horrible, sick to their stomach WORD...they wept bitterly. By making the idol, the people thought that God would be closer. **They invented a way to feel like God was among them, but they did it in rebellion to His law. Now God says, because you have sinned...rather than drawing closer...I'm pulling further away.** I'm not going with you, I'll send you some angel.
6. And this makes the people weep. The presence of God is the only reason they escaped from Egypt, God's presence is the only reason they were not chased down by the Egyptian armies, God is the reason they weren't massacred by the Amalekites. God is the reason they don't starve or die of dehydration...and now God is saying my presence will not go with you because you are so inclined to sin, and the people properly interpret these words as the worst news they have ever heard.
 1. YOU ARE GUILTY OF SIN...and I'm concerned that I get to close to you I will burst out in anger at your sin and utterly consume you.
 2. So when the people heard these words...YOU ARE GUILTY of sin...they humbled themselves. They wept, and they stripped themselves of their ornaments. It actually emphatically restates 3 times that the people stripped themselves of all decorative or beautifying clothing or accessories verse 4, no one put on ornaments, verse 5 take off your ornaments that I may know what to do with you, verse 6 therefore the people stripped themselves of their ornaments.
 3. In the ancient world, grieving involved the whole person. Some of this is still reflective today. We recognize without anyone having to tell us, that it would be inappropriate to wear bright festive clothing to a funeral.
 4. You will read many times in Scripture about the people humbling themselves and repenting in sackcloth and ashes. And for them, that wasn't figurative. They took off any and all nice clothing, they put on the worst most uncomfortable covering available and covered their heads in ash as a sign of their deep humiliation and their deep repentance before the Lord.
 5. When God says strip off your ornaments, what He is actually saying...is completely humble yourselves before me...not until you decide what ought to be done verse 5...but until God decides what ought to be done with you.
7. Let me suggest that there is a lesson here on how we as Christian can respond to national sins. Remember the ring leaders, have all been rounded up and put to death. The guys who called for the idol have been executed. This is God speaking to everyone else who was involved, though not directly responsible.
8. We are at a time and a place in our historical moment where something is happening. And what I think is happening, is that for years and years and years the African American community has been saying that police brutality has been an ongoing issue in their community and no one is doing anything about it and as a consequence black people keep dying and there is no justice for those who perpetrate the crime.

1. And when the death of George Floyd was captured on video for everyone to see...and you watched a man pleading for air as a man who was sworn to protect and serve Him continued to press down on his neck until he died...I think for the first time those who don't live in those African American communities to witness these things first hand, felt like they witnessed first hand.
2. And when something like this happens, when a spotlight is thrown on a national sin...the first thing to do, the right thing to do is to humble yourself. Not to go hey I wasn't one of the 3000 men from chapter 32 who perpetrated the crime, why should I have to humble myself? You just humble yourself because sin has happened and God is angry. You humble yourself by not assuming you've understood before you've made a sincere effort to try and understand.
3. The second and equally important thing to do is resist with all your heart...the temptation to let this tragedy become politicized in your own mind. When you see that one human image bearer of God has died at the hands of another image bearer of God...you are not supposed to embrace the red view or the blue view of the situation. You aren't supposed to embrace the Fox News or the CNN view of the situation. You are supposed to embrace God's view of the situation...you are supposed to do justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God. Not toe a party line in the human quest for power.
4. Finally, we are called to weep with those who weep. I listened to a sermon from Emmanuel Baptist church in downtown San Jose from this past Sunday, which is a mostly African American church. And i listened to their pastor preach on the pain and frustration and sense of hopelessness that justice will be done, even in this present situation in the world. And to proclaim that his only hope is in the God who has used the unjust death of an innocent man before, and used the ugliness of that situation to bring grace and blessing into the world.
 1. No matter what you think about the nature of this situation...your brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus are weeping. People who love your God, who have repented in Christ Jesus, who serve Him alongside of you in His kingdom...are weeping. Will you weep with them?
9. Brothers and sisters, I assume we have people who are all over the map on how to respond to the death of George Floyd, on how to respond to the protests, on how to respond to the violence and the looting that happened last Friday and Saturday. But I believe the right way to respond to national sin, is to humble ourselves, to earnestly desire God's presence and to try to understand what healing looks like. And in doing so, to resist with all our hearts the pressure all around you to adopt worldly views of this situation, whether for or against this issue. We are called to live as salt and light in the midst of a nation sin. So this is how Israel, and I think ought to respond to national sins. Let's now transition to verse 7 and consider what it means to fear the God of all grace.

FEARING THE GOD OF ALL GRACE

1. In the midst of this great national humbling, there is a flickering emblem of hope. The people aren't just humbled...some of them are seeking the Lord. Verse 7 Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp and he called it the tent of meeting. And

everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp.

1. I don't know how it's possible that I have been missing the second half of verse 7 every time I've read through Exodus. The tent of meeting pitched outside the camp wasn't just for Moses and God. Certainly that will be the emphasis of the coming verses but look what it says...AND EVERYONE who sought the LORD would go out to the tent.
2. Was there a great national sin? Yes. Does that mean everyone hates God's and wishes they still had a golden calf? No. There were many in Israel it would seem who truly feared the Lord and desired His presence.
3. But given the fact of their nations sins...precautions were taken. If you look back at verse 7 you see that it is emphasized three times that the tent was outside the camp. Far off from the camp it says. Moses and the people took the warning seriously, that if God went up among them He would break out in wrath against them.
4. And it's amazing...Moses and those who loved God, didn't use this as an excuse to not seek him. They were willing to be radically inconvenienced to sustain their fellowship with God. And as this took place something incredible began to happen.
2. God servant Moses in verse 8 would regularly go out to the tent. And when He did, all the people would rise up and go their tent door and watch. And when Moses entered the tent, the presence of God in the pillar of cloud would come down and rest at the entrance of the tent, and YAHWEH would speak with Moses. Goodness gracious, can you imagine.
 1. Because Moses and the people fear the Lord they take His word extremely seriously and pitch the tent WAY outside the camp. But because Moses and the people love the Lord they keep seeking Him, and pursuing fellowship with Him.
 2. And as Moses kept going to the tent day after day, and they saw the pillar of cloud day after day, the people began to rise up and worship, each at his tent door. They saw Moses pursuing God on their behalf, they saw the intimate communion that Moses enjoyed with their creator and it gave way to national revival. All the people worshipped. This is the first time that the Scripture explicitly says that the people worshipped God since the night of the Passover.
 3. Never underestimate the power of a faithful, worshipping life. I know many of us have the ambition of being used in a mighty way by our God. But for that ambition to be godly, it has to be truly about Him and not about us. And the way you militate against the temptation to make it about you, is by worshipping Him. Day after day after day. God's power is perfected in my weakness, not my strength.
3. When the people saw the pillar of cloud, standing at the entrance of the tent in verse 10 they would rise up and worship in their tent door. Verse 11 And this is one of the most incredible verses in the bible YAHWEH, He who made heaven and earth used to speak to Moses face to face as a man speaks to His friend.
 1. I mean what was that like. The voice of the one who divided the ocean from the land speaking directly, and without mediation to a human being. Can you imagine talking to someone who knows the end from the beginning, who knows every cell in your body as well as every galaxy in the universe, who sees the full plan of redemption as the one who is sovereign over all...and you're just talking to him as a man speaks to his friend?

2. If that doesn't blow your hair back I don't know what will.
4. But Moses adds in verse 11, that Joshua the son of Nun would not depart from the tent. Why is that there? To make sure you know what kind of man Joshua was. He is not just going to be the logical choice to lead Israel. He is a man after God's own heart.
5. So Moses begins to open to us how he prayed to the Lord. Verse 12, you have told me to go, but I don't know this angel you're going to send. And then he lays out an argument for why God should show mercy.
 1. First: YOU HAVE SAID...he prays God's word back to Him. I think doing that is SO SO helpful. You have said "I know you by name". That is, you and I have an intimate relationship with one another. You don't just know about me You know me, and that intimacy implies love.
 2. Second: You have ALSO SAID "i have found favor in your sight." To be in the king's favor is to be in the place of ultimate privilege. You are free to ask favors of the king in the hope of being heard and that is exactly what Moses does.
 3. So he turns this intimacy and this favor into two personal requests. First: Verse 13, if I have found favor, show me your ways that I might know you in order to find MORE favor in your sight. You want to learn to pray? Start praying like that. That is a deep well of glory. Show me what you are like, that I might love you more, in order that I might please you more. If I'm your known and favored one, give me more of yourself.
 4. But second, please consider that this nation is YOUR people. That is an appeal to God's glory. Consider that this people bears your name and their fate is directly related to your fame in the world.
6. And the God whom they fear...responds with all grace. Verse 14, My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest. What more could a human being ask for? Communion with God and rest in the world. That's what heaven is going to be like. But Moses presses further...if you will not go DON'T make us leave.
7. It's incredible how much Moses's concerns centered on the presence of God. Verse 16 how will people know that I am your favored servant. How will people know that you have really set your love on I AND YOUR PEOPLE...if you don't come with us.
 1. Your presence is what makes us distinct. This is what distinguishes the people of God from every other organization, institution or nation upon the face of the earth...the presence of the Most High God.
 2. That's it. Are God's people morally stronger than the nations? Nope. Are they smarter, better, richer, stronger, more helpful, more prudent, more numerous, than the other peoples of the earth? The bible's answer to that question is a resounding "no". Apart from God's presence among us...we would be just like everyone else.
 3. The good that happens among God's people, the ability to humble ourselves, conviction from sin, faith, hope, love grow as the fruit of God Himself working among us, as we strive together with Him for our holiness. God says in verse 17 this very thing you have asked, I will do, for the very reasons you stated.
8. God is holy, the people have every reason to fear His wrath...and yet He is also the God of all grace, and so the humbled people have reason to hope in his mercy and faithfulness and

forgiveness. This how you fear the God of all grace...by hating sin, and loving Him. In grieving things that hinder fellowship with Him, and seeking Him in His mercy.

1. So what have we seen? We have seen that when the people are caught in a tragic national sin, they humble themselves before the Lord and recognize the implications of their sin. But second, their fear of God doesn't keep them from pursuing God. And as Moses in particular continues faithfully seeking the Lord, eventually the whole nation is drawn into worship. And as this happens, God shows Himself gracious to Moses and the people by responding to Moses' prayer and vowing to go up with people as he had originally intended. But then the story takes a twist...and something unexpected happens.

WHAT EVERY HEART TRULY LONGS FOR

1. Verse 18 Moses wants to see the glory of the Lord. "Please he says, show me your glory."
 1. Why was Moses in this tent? I thought he was in the tent because the people were in big trouble, God said he wasn't going to go with them anymore, and Moses was going to attempt to negotiate a peace.
 2. Why was Moses in the tent? I thought he went in there because the people had committed a tragic national sin, and Moses wanted to fix the problem. I thought Moses went in there to figure out how they could take meaningful steps forward as a community trying to deal with the ongoing implications of their sin.
 3. What did Moses want to see?
2. I am going to unpack God's response next week...but for now I want to leave you with this question...what do you want to see? Problems fixed? Problems dismissed? Or God glorified?
3. What do you want to see? A community where wrongs aren't simply punished but where they are truly repented of and truly forgiven. Where people don't just say sorry, but where their hearts are truly changed.
4. A community where perfect justice is guaranteed to every citizen, where the Word of the Lord decides between people with perfect equity.
5. What do YOU want to see?
6. When you see police officers joining with protesters taking a knee against the abuse of power, and when you see them embrace each other against the back drop of all the other hostility. You feel like you are glimpsing the kingdom of God. People who are normally in hostility towards one another, laying down their arms to embrace one another as creatures made in God's image. It smells like the kingdom.
7. But it's not the kingdom, it's only near the kingdom. In the kingdom of God, they would rise from their knees and lift up their hearts and lives and voices to the risen Christ, in worship, adoration and praise. **They would lay down their weapons and lay down their hatreds, and take up their cross and love one another.** Not for the cameras, but as a way of life.
 1. This is not something that better policies can do, though we should strive for better policies. This is not something that a vote can bring to pass, though we should vote and be informed. What do you want to see? This is what it looks like when God glorifies Himself among His people. He shows forth His righteousness through His servants.
8. When God is finally glorified it will look like this:

Micah 4:1–4

[1] It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and it shall be lifted up above the hills;
and peoples shall flow to it,

[2] and many nations shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

[3] He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore;

[4] but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree,
and no one shall make them afraid,
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. (ESV)

That is what it looks like when the Lord is glorified. When His ways are pursued by all, when His people desire to please His heart, to humble themselves when they have sinned, to let the Word of the Lord be their judge, and to seek peace rather than war.

1. This project begins in your own heart, and moves out into how you engage the other members of your family, and this church. And as your desire for God to be glorified in righteousness, justice and peace making, it begins to stream out into your neighborhood, your city and your country.
2. When you pray **SHOW ME YOUR GLORY**, you are involved in His glories display. When you say...show me your glory, that involves you being transformed...2 Corinthians 3:18 “And we all with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the LORD are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.” The central way you do this is by focusing on what God has done in Christ, revealing His self-giving, sin-atoning, blood bought love for you and for me. While we were yet His enemies God died for us. While we were at war with Him...God laid down his weapons and created peace by the blood of His cross.
3. God’s hope was never that we would figure out how to love Him better...God’s desire was to reveal true love in the earth by sending His Son to die for our sins, in order that we would be reconciled to God turn and then turn and be reconciled to one another in like fashion.
4. What do you want to see? What you truly long for, is to see the glory of God. So glorify Him with your life!