

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title

The Mother of all Prayers

Exodus 33:12-23, 34:5-8

Slide 2:

Exodus 33:12–16 (ESV)

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.’ 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.” And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” 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?”

Slide 3:

Exodus 33:17–23 (ESV)

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.” 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. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” And the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, 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. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

Slide 4:

Exodus 34:5–8 (ESV)

proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

Slide 5:

Mother of all Prayers

- 1) God always says "yes"
- 2) All other prayers should be birthed from this one

Slide 6:

- I. What is the Mother of all Prayers?
- II. What is God's answer to Moses?
- III. What is God's response to us?

Slide 7:

Intimacy requires an honoring of what the other person reveals about himself/herself

Slide 8:

Exodus 33:1–3 (ESV)

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.’ 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. 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.”

Slide 9:

Exodus 33:15 (ESV)

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?"

Slide 11:

Kabod = glory = "matter"

The story of how we lost our kabod

Slide 12:

In the beginning we chose creation over Creator, garden over God, and the Mother of all Prayers reverses the "curse" as we choose Creator over creation, God over garden.

Slide 13:

God's Response is...."No, but..."

Slide 14:

What happens when opposing natures clash

Slide 15:

Moses realizes:

- 1) The one thing in the world he needs in order to be healed is the face of God
- 2) The one thing in the world God cannot give him is His face

Slide 16:

God's "glory" = God's "goodness" and name

Slide 17:

Exodus 34:6–7 (ESV)

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

The God "dilemma"

Not a contradiction, but a Divine tension

Slide 19:

John 1:14 (ESV)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Slide 20:

God's dilemma with mankind

If He just forgives, he is not Just, and therefore not good

If He does not overlook, He is perfectly Just, but we can't get home

Slide 21:

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)

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. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Exodus 33:12-23, 34:5-8. What is going on here? Can you explain this story in greater clarity? What are your questions of the text?
2. What is the "mother of all prayers" in this text? Give examples of this prayer in your own life. Why do things hurt us? How can this prayer heal us?
3. Why does God say "no" to Moses request? Why is it impossible for Moses to "see His glory?"
4. What is God's "goodness?" What is His name?
Can you explain why both must be true for God to be good?
What is the tension?
5. How does God resolve the tension at the cross through His Son?

6. What does it mean for us to see the "face of God?"

Now?

Later?

7. Prayer and praise