

## Exodus 33

1. Following the episode with the golden calf, God once again tells Moses it is time to leave. What can we learn from the fact that God is still leading Israel?

What does God tell Moses to do?

Why do you think God always mentions Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

What message from God is Moses to give the Israelites?

What does God say He will do in verse 2?

What can you learn about these people groups?

2. Whom is God sending with Israel as they set out for the Promised Land?

How does God describe the Promised Land?

Why do you think God describes the land as flowing with milk and honey?

Read Isaiah 59:2. How does this relate to the Israelites?

Why was God not going with them?

How might you have felt had you been in that crowd when God said He was not going with you anymore?

3. What was the people's reaction when they heard this news?

Do you think the people's sorrow was heartfelt? Please explain.

What did the people do as a sign of their sorrow?

Why do you think they did not put on any ornaments?

How might we as a nation show God our sorrow?

4. What does it mean to you to be stiff-necked?

What other people or peoples in the Bible would you consider stiff-necked?

Would you consider this nation to be stiff-necked? Please explain.

According to verse 5, God tells the Israelites to take off their ornaments. Verse 6 says they stripped off all their ornaments. What is behind the LORD's command and the people's response?

Does this mean we are not to wear "ornaments" today? Please explain.

5. What does verse 7 tell us Moses did?

Why do you think Moses erected this tent outside the camp?

What did Moses call the tent?

According to verse 7, anyone inquiring of the LORD could go to this tent. What does this mean to you?

Now, according to verse 8, who went inside the Tent of Meeting?

What did the people do when Moses approached the tent?

Moses' actions give us a picture of an intercessor. Based upon this description, how would you describe the role of an intercessor?

6. What happened when Moses entered the tent?

When Moses would say to the people, "The LORD says...", how would the people know Moses was telling the truth?

Today, how can we know if someone truly heard from the Lord?

What does it mean to you that the LORD spoke to Moses?

According to verse 10, what did the people do when Moses entered the Tent of Meeting?

Why do you think they worshipped at the entrances of their own tents and not all together?

7. Verse 11 contains an amazing description. What does it say about the conversations Moses and God had?

Look ahead to verse 20. What does it say?

If no one can see God's face and live, then how did God speak to Moses face-to-face?

What type of relationship did Moses have with God?

This verse also says that Moses spoke to God as a man speaks with whom?

How do you speak with your friends?

Do you believe this relationship was unique to Moses, or can we too speak to God as one would speak to his friend?

8. According to verse 11, Joshua is referred to as Moses' "young aide." However, most believe Joshua to be in his fifties. Why would he be referred to as young?

What else do we learn about Joshua in this verse?

Why do you think Joshua did not leave the tent of meeting and not go with Moses?

How would you describe Joshua?

What qualities would you like to see in a young person before moving him/her into leadership?

9. Moses is not finished talking to God as one would talk to a friend. Remember, God told Moses He was not going with them any more, or He might destroy them. Again, Moses does not like this answer. What does Moses say to God in verse 12?

Why do you think Moses reminded God of what God had said? Would God ever forget?

Have you ever done this (remind God of something He said or promised)?

Does it seem rude or disrespectful for Moses to ask God for details? Please explain.

10. Verse 13 begins with what some call the biggest little word in the English language: "If."  
What is the "if" portion of Moses' statement?

What is the "then" portion of his statement?

In what ways are we taught God's ways that we might know Him?

What are some of God's ways that you have learned?

Read Matthew 28:20. How do Jesus' words parallel Moses' desire?

How would you teach others to obey Jesus' words?

What is the last thing Moses says to God in verse 13?

11. How does God respond to Moses' request in verse 14?

What can we learn about God from His seemingly simple answer?

Moses makes another profound statement in verse 15. What is it?

What does this statement tell us about how Moses has changed since God called him out of the wilderness?

Should this be the cry of the church? Please explain.

How can we know if God is going with us?

Moses then asks two very important questions that still hold great import for us today: what are those two questions?

Why do you - or do you - think these questions are important to us?

What was God's response in verse 17?

Why do you think God was pleased with Moses?

What does it mean to you that God knew Moses by name?

12. God has responded favorably to Moses. But, Moses has a personal request now. What "demand" does Moses make?

Would it ever occur to you to make such a statement to God? Please explain.

Was God angry with Moses for Moses' making such a bold request? Please explain.

Why could God not grant Moses' request?

Instead, what does God say He will do for Moses? (See v. 19.)

What does it mean to you that *God* will have mercy on whom He will have mercy and compassion on whom He will have compassion?

*God* tells *Moses* that no one can look at *God's* face and live. Why?

Read John 1:14. How does it relate to *God's* words to *Moses*?

What do you find most amazing about this verse in John?

What does *God* do for *Moses* in vv. 21-23?

If you had been *Moses*, how do you think you might have felt once *God* placed you in that cleft?

If that had happened to you, would you want to tell everyone? Please explain.

Why do you think *Moses* was the only person allowed to see *God's* glory passing by?