

Exodus 33:7-40:38 – Lesson Sixteen

Moses Practiced the Presence of the LORD

- He communed with God.
- He listened to God.
- He cultivated an intimate relationship with God.
- Moses knew the significance of God's presence.

Moses was desperate that the presence of the LORD would go with them as they continued:

- *"If Your presence will not go with us, do not lead us up from here."* (33:15)
- He essentially said, *"We do not have the resources to fulfill this mission."* (Tony Merida)
- Moses knew that they were lost and powerless without God's presence.

In the same way, we are lost and powerless with God's presence in our lives.

- *"I am the vine; you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; **for apart from Me you can do nothing.**"* (John 15:5)
- *Abiding in Jesus is indispensable, for, as you know, of yourselves you can do nothing to maintain or act out the heavenly life.* (Andrew Murray)
- Apart from God's presence, we are lost and barren.

How often do you set aside time to linger in the presence of the Lord? What are some ways that we can make lingering in God's presence a regular part of our everyday lives?

- ***You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*** (Psalm 16:11)

Moses Sought to Know the LORD More Fully

- Moses asked the LORD, *"Please show me Your glory."* (33:18)
- He earnestly sought to know God.
- This is *the prayer of a man who surveyed the universe, and found that, of all things to spend our calories and willpower to seek, nothing compares to the One who made the universe.* (Thaddeus Williams)

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, the skin of his face shone.

- He sought to know the Lord more fully and God answered his prayer.
- Moses beheld God's goodness and glory.
- *And he remained long enough in the presence of God to become saturated with the light and glory of the Lord.* (F.B. Meyer)

We too are called to seek to know the LORD more fully.

- He removes the veil when we turn to Him and seek to know Him.
- He reveals His goodness and His glory.
- *And we all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)*

As we seek to know Him more fully, we will be changed and transformed into His image. Our faces will reflect His glory just as Moses' face shone with the glory of the LORD.

Does your face reflect the glory and image of the Lord? How can we become women with radiant faces that shine with the likeness of God's goodness and glory?

- ***They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces will never be ashamed. (Psalm 34:5)***

The People Responded with Offerings of Thanksgiving

- The people had corrupted themselves.
- They had quickly turned aside from the way which God had commanded.
- They were an obstinate people that God would have destroyed without the intercessory prayers of Moses.

And yet:

- The LORD's presence would remain with them as they continued their journey.
- The Covenant was renewed.
- They were a forgiven people.

In response to the LORD's abundant grace and to the immensity of His goodness:

- They gave thankfully.
- They gave willingly.
- They gave overwhelmingly.

We too, believers saved by grace, are called to respond to the grace we have received with offerings of thanksgiving.

Does your giving abound with a thankfulness that overflows with generosity? How can we become more cheerful givers?

- ***But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved). (Ephesians 2:4-5)***

J. Alec Motyer ends his commentary of Moses with his thoughts of '*living in the shadows.*'

In the first chapters of Exodus:

- ***The dark shadow of enslavement lay upon the people of God, the bitter cry of bereavement as their sons were snatched from them for the river, the blows of the taskmaster, a future without hope, and the relentless, uncaring policy of genocide. They were at that time a people under a cloud, even if the text does not expressly say so.***
- ***Now, at the end of the book, they were again a people under a cloud, this time the cloud of the LORD, the signal of His presence in glory, holiness, and grace.***
- ***Between these two clouds the Sovereign Lord of the whole earth had routed all the power of the enemy, granted His people deliverance, brought them to Himself by the blood of the lamb, graced them with His directive law and come, in the fullness of His person to take up residence in their midst as their indwelling God.***
- ***This is the whole story of the book of Exodus.*** (pg. 322)

This is our story as well.

- We were under the cloud of sin and death.
- But now, in Jesus, we are under the cloud of His indwelling presence. Jesus came in the fullness of His person to take up residence among us. He granted us deliverance from sin and brought us to Himself with His own shed blood on the cross. His Spirit indwells us, guiding and empowering us for the journey ahead.
- We too have reason, even more reason, to offer gifts of thanksgiving and praise.

Truth for Life: 365 Daily Devotions by Alistair Begg

Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Exodus by Tony Merida

Our Daily Walk by F.B. Meyer

The Message of Exodus by J. Alec Motyer

The True Vine by Andrew Murray

Revering God: How to Marvel at Your Maker by Thaddeus J. Williams