

Morning Sermon Outline – January 22, 2017

“Glimpsing God’s Glory”

Exodus 33:18 – 34:8

I. Moses’ Plea –

And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." (Exodus 33:18 NKJ)

1. *You might have thought Moses had already seen God’s glory –*
"And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; ... (Exodus 16:7 NKJ)

Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. (Exodus 16:10 NKJ)

Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷ The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. (Exodus 24:16-17 NKJ)

"And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and *the tabernacle* shall be sanctified by My glory. (Exodus 29:43 NKJ)

However this is glory in “the cloud”

2. *This is similar to what Paul writes –*
... was caught up to the third heaven. (2 Corinthians 12:2 NKJ)

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, ... (1 Corinthians 13:12 NKJ)

3. *God was already speaking to Moses “face to face” –*
So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. (Exodus 33:11 NKJ)

4. *However, He still wanted MORE –*
And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." (Exodus 33:18 NKJ)

5. *Paul caught up to the third Heaven, also wanted MORE –*
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 (Philippians 3:8 NKJ)

II. God’s answer to this great request –

Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." ²⁰ But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." 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. ²³ "Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen." (Exodus 33:19-23 NKJ)

1. *God would make all His goodness pass before Moses*
"I will make all My goodness pass before you ..." - :19

2. *Still, the revelation would be more VOICE than VISION –*
and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. - :19

²⁰ But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." - :20

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

3. *Moses needs God’s protection from this glorious vision, he is protected by the cleft of the rock and God’s hand - :22*

Moses wanted to see God. So God said, “All right. Come up here and I’ll show you who I am. But if you really want to know me, it’s not about seeing what I look like—it’s about knowing my infinite perfections, especially as I display them in the salvation of sinners.”

P.G. Ryken & R.K. Hughes

III. Moses Preparation –

And the LORD said to Moses, "Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke. ² "So be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain. ³ "And no man shall come up with you, and let no man be seen throughout all the mountain; let neither flocks nor herds feed

before that mountain." ⁴ So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone. (Exodus 34:1-4 NKJ)

Note the broken stuff –

1. *Broken golden earrings for fashioning a golden calf -*
"So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This *is* your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!" (Exodus 32:3-4 NKJ)

2. *Broken tablets because of broken law –*
So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf *and* the dancing. So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰ Then he took the calf which they had made, burned *it* in the fire, and ground *it* to powder; and he scattered *it* on the water and made the children of Israel drink *it*. (Exodus 32:19-20 NKJ)

Moses must be humble in the presence of the LORD –

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6 NKJ)

3. *Moses' earlier pleas were not for himself but for God's people:*
A. *For forgiveness –*
Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! ³² "Yet now, if You will forgive their sin-- but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written." (Exodus 32:31-32 NKJ)

B. *For God's continued presence with His people –*
And He said, "My Presence will go *with you*, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go *with us*, do not bring us up from here. (Exodus 33:14-15 NKJ)

If God is going to be with them, they must OBEY HIS LAW, which means they need to have HIS law –

Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2 NKJ) See all of Exodus 34

IV. *God's reveling Himself to Moses, more VOICE than VISION –*

And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." (Exodus 34:6-7 NKJ)

1. *God proclaimed Himself to Moses –*
And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed - :6

So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17 NKJ)

2. *He proclaims Himself in relation to sinful people -*
merciful and gracious, longsuffering, - :6

, ⁷ "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin - :7 ... by no means clearing the guilty, - :7

3. *God is giving Moses a preview of Himself as Just and the Justifier –*
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:23-26 NKJ)

V. *Moses gladly worships such a God –*
So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped. (Exodus 34:8 NKJ)

VI. *Moses' face shone from his meeting with God –*
So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments. ²⁹ Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. (Exodus 34:28-29 NKJ)

Arnold Brevick