

God's Glory Revealed

Exodus 33:17-23

Exodus 34:4-7

10/05/08

Intro

We are continuing our study in Exodus 33. As a result of Israel's depravity that we saw in chapter 32, God said that they were to go up to the land that he had promised to give them, but that he would not go with them. Moses interceded for Israel and pleaded with God to go with them saying, "If your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here." With Moses as their mediator, God agreed to go with them.

Moses then asked for something personal, "If I have found favor in your sight, let me know your ways, that I may know you."

In verse 17 God agrees to grant him this request as well. Moses is on a roll and dares to ask one more thing of astounding boldness, "Please, show me your glory," he asked.

God then responds to this request by saying, "I myself will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you."

God cannot reveal the fullness of His glory because, "No man can see the face of God and live!" Yet God is pleased with the request and will allow his glory to pass by Moses as he is hidden in the cleft of the rock. He then continues to reveal the power of His glory when Moses returns to the mountain to replace the broken tablets of the law that he had smashed apart when he saw the dancing and partying of Israel before the golden calf that Aaron had made.

I. A Man Becomes Like His God

- Moses wanted more. He wanted to know God more deeply. God offers the gift of eternal life based of the cross of Calvary, and while that is wonderful, some people want more. They would

say with Moses, “Show me your ways, that I might know you.”

- There is a principle in scripture that plainly says that we become like our God or ‘god’ as the case may be. Psalm 115.
- But we know Him more fully that we might become like Him.

A. God makes Himself known

- Moses said that he wanted to know God. He had known God, but wanted to know God more. He asked God to show Himself and God was pleased to answer that request.
- First, let’s understand that God makes Himself known to all people. There is a consciousness of God in each person for he has revealed Himself in His creation.

Romans 1:19-20, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

- Some choose to worship the creation because they do not want to be accountable to the creator.
- Some people worship “mother earth.” Who on earth is that?
- Or some create their own religion and then say all religions are equally valid.

Illus- An old analogy is used to demonstrate that all religions are valid, claiming that they each take hold of a different aspect of God. It is like four blind men each taking hold of a different part of an elephant. Yet, in that analogy, all four blind men are wrong. In fact, God makes himself known.

- God makes Himself known most fully in His Son Jesus Christ. When Philipp asked Him, “Show us the Father,” Jesus replied, “If you have seen Me you have seen the Father.”

Hebrews 1:1-3 God speaks through His Son

B. God is good

- When Moses asked God to show him his glory, God said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you.” Clearly God is saying that He is good.

App – Some say, “If God is good, then why is there so much evil in the world?” I said God is good, I didn’t say that God was good. Man’s heart is what’s wrong with this world. Man is the problem, Jesus is the answer.

- God speaks of all his goodness and then says, “I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you.”
- The names of the Lord speak of the goodness of the Lord and give us the answer to our need. Do you need peace? He is Jehovah Shalom. Do you need a provision? He is Jehovah Jireh. Do you need healing? He is Jehovah Rapha. Do you need rest? He is Jehovah Raah – God our shepherd.

- He also told Moses that His glory will pass by and Moses will see only the glory that follows behind God.

Illus – What follows behind you? When you come into the living room and there is an empty bag of popcorn, empty glasses and snack wrappers, you might say, “A teenager has been here.” Or if you come into a bedroom with socks, dirty clothes and a towel on the floor you might say, “A husband has passed by this way.”

- But what does God leave behind? God is good and the effect of God is found in His name.
- When God comes into your life, He leaves behind His glory.
- God is good and when His goodness is in your life, you become good. We become like our God.

App – Some people see God as a God who doesn't care, so they don't care. Some people see God as angry and so they become angry. Some people see God as the judge, and so they become judgmental. Some people see God as the giver of laws, so they become legalistic.

- But God said that He is good and that is what He leaves behind in those who seek His glory.

Jeremiah 31:14, “I will fill the soul of the priests with abundance, and My people will be satisfied with My goodness,” declares the Lord.

C. Let goodness be in you as well

- When Moses asked to see God's glory, he responded by speaking of all His goodness.
- When He glory touches your life, He leaves behind His goodness in you. But what does that mean, what does His goodness look like?
- In 34:6, the Lord proclaimed, **“The Lord is compassionate.”**
- This is the first place this word is used in the bible and it means that God has mercy which is motivated by His feeling the passion or the grief of our pain.

Psalm 103:13-14, “Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust.”

- God leaves behind His compassion causing us to feel what others feel. If you cannot feel the pain of others then hurt will follow behind you.
- **“The Lord is gracious,”** He also said. This is part of knowing Him. This is who He is. It means that God gives us favor that we do not deserve.

Psalm 5:12, For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O Lord, You surround him with favor as with a shield.

- When God gave the law, He pointed out that some of the laws are given to show the gracious heart of God.

Exodus 22:26-27, If you ever take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, you are to return it to him before the sun sets, for that is his only covering; it is his cloak for his body. What else shall he sleep in? And it shall come about that when he cries out to Me, I will hear him, for I am gracious.

- When His glory touches your life, He leaves behind grace in you. If you don't have grace, then what follows behind you is not good.
- **He is slow to anger.** The King James says, "He is long-suffering." That is a good way to see it. God's patience with us surely requires Him to suffer long. It also shows us that His ways are so much higher than our ways, because this is one of the greatest areas where we fall short.
- Why is God so patient?

2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."

- Patience comes with God's glory. If we seek for deeper things of God, it brings about deeper things in us.

App – Without patience what we leave behind is definitely not good.

- **The Lord is full of lovingkindness.** The Hebrew word is chesed love. Love that is everlasting; or His love is faithful even when our love is not!

Lamentations 3:21-23, “This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. The Lord’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness.”

- It’s as though God were saying, “I’m going to bring My glory into your life and it will change the way you love.”

App – Is your love fickle? Does it depend on your mood? You need to be touched by the glory of God.

- **God is full of truth.** He speaks the truth and He is true.
- He desires truth in us as well.

Psalm 51:6, “Behold, Thou dost desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part Thou wilt make me know wisdom.”

II. God Blesses the Generations

- This next section of scripture is very important to understand because there have been many who have misunderstood and it has created much confusion in the church even today.
- A. He keeps lovingkindness to thousands
- This is reflection that His chesed love extends to the thousands. He offers His love to all and extends His hands out to the generations.
 - It also says that he forgives iniquity, transgression and sin. Each of these words is used because they each have a different meaning.

- **Iniquity** means to bend, twist, or distort. It is most serious because it speaks of the character of a person who has sinned so long that it has bent their character.
- **Transgression** means to trespass, to cross a line that should not be crossed.
- **Sin** means to offend and it refers to the offense of disregarding God's Word. In the New Testament this word is used to mean, *one who misses the mark, who falls short of the glory of God.*

App – forgiving sin is a result of His love to thousands and we are to see it as an act of love so we can respond with love toward Him.

B. God visits even the fourth generation

- This scripture is important because some have taught that there are generational curses upon us because of the sins of our fathers.
- First of all, God does not put curses on people.
- It's important to see that what is visited to the third and fourth generation is iniquity – the distorted heart, the weakness toward an area of sin.

App –It says He visits the ‘iniquity.’ This is the mind-set, the attitude, the bending of the character that passes from generation to generation. I have my father’s tendencies, but it does not need to continue.

“Will this end? I am compassionate and gracious and slow to anger. I have given you the way to be free,

will you come to me and be changed by My presence?” asks the Lord.

2 Chronicles 7:14, “if My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

- This is powerfully explained in Ezekiel...

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 14-23 No longer use this parable in Israel

- Some people want to blame their parents for the difficulties in their lives.
- We may inherit a character that is bent toward a particular area of sin, but God has also made a way to heal the character of our hearts.
- Find healing in Christ and then seek the deeper things of God.