

A GODLY DISCONTENT

Exodus 33-34

GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS MERCY TO HIS PEOPLE 33:1-11

God demonstrates His mercy by fulfilling His promise 1-2

"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.'"² 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.

God demonstrates mercy by refusing to go with them 3-6

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."⁴ When the people heard this disastrous word, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments.⁵ For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the people of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you..."

God demonstrates mercy meeting Moses face to face. 7-11

"Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp."⁸ Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent.⁹ When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses.¹⁰ And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door.¹¹ Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend..."

MOSES RESPONDS TO GOD'S MERCY 33:12-34:9

Because of God's mercy, Moses refuses to go, unless God goes with them.

33:12-16

12 *"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.'"*

13 *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."*

If God doesn't go, Moses doesn't go! Period. 14-15

"And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here."

Moses wants to reveal God to the nations. **16** *"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?"*

Because of His mercy, God promises to go with them. 17

"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."

Because of God's mercy, Moses wants more. 33:18-23

18 "Moses said, "Please show me your glory."

Godly people have an insatiable thirst to know God better!

**People who know God best
are people who want God most!**

19-23 "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. ²⁰But,"he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." ²¹And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²²and 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. ²³Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

Because of God's mercy, Moses gets more. 34:1-9

God reveals Himself to Moses. 1-9

God reveals His ways to Moses. 10-27

People see the results of God's mercy in Moses' life 28-35

When Moses sees how great God really is, ...

He's overwhelmed by balance of God's mercy and His judgment

6-7 "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, ⁷keeping 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."

He worships Him 8

"And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped."

He pleads for God's presence, combined with His forgive-ness and

grace 9 "And he said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance."

THREE CRITICAL QUESTIONS

1. What is Moses' secret of spiritual greatness?

Secret of spiritual greatness:

thirst for God.

David

Ps. 42:1-2 "As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. ²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?"

Ps. 63:1 "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Paul also had that thirst! **Phil. 3:7-10** "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of

knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”

1 Tim. 6:6:

“Godliness with contentment is great gain!”

God delights to satisfy that thirst!

Ps. 37:4

“Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart”

God made us for fellowship with Him.

2. Would YOU go?

Anywhere without Him?

Even the BEST places?

Anywhere with Him?

Even the WORST places?

3. What is there in *our* life that can't be explained any other way than by

God's presence?

God's presence makes

God's people different!

Are we hungry/thirsty for more of HIM?