



“Experience Grace & Glory!”

Exodus Chapter 33

> FOUR LESSONS FOR A GREAT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

> (v1-6) LESSON #1 – GOD, PLEASE BE IN OUR MIDST!

(v1a) Observe that God once again, like chapter 32, says that these people belong to Moses, *“Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt”*

Why does God say this? The answer, the people did not believe in God with all their heart, they are double-minded with many gods.

James 1:5-8 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 4:7-10 - Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

(v1b-3a) The “good news” is God keeps His promises, He swore “*a land flowing with milk and honey*” to the descendants of Abraham, Issac and Jacob.

(v3b-5) Yet, God says he will not go up in their midst, lest He consumes them, why?

– These ornaments were probably full of idolatrous symbols from Egypt, which had been used to make the golden calf (Egyptian god - Apis), thus, they were called to remove these ornaments.

- The people were ***STIFF-NECKED!*** - They were stubborn, unyielding, arrogant, and proud. The phrase a stiff-necked people is a figure of speech for rebellion and disobedience taken from stubborn domestic animals, such as oxen that turn their shoulders away from the yoke and refuse to follow directions. Israel was stiff-necked in refusing to obey the Word of God and embracing idolatry and sexual immorality.

(v6) Repentance leads to obedience, which leads to blessing! God will later tell the children of Israel, *“if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.”* (2 Chronicles 7:14-16)

> (v7-11) LESSON #2 – LORD, I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND!

(v7-11) Moses determined to have a one on one relationship with God, he separated himself and conversed with God, *“So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.”* (v11)

- Another friend of God was Abraham - James 2:23 - *And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.*

- All believers are a friend of God and Jesus Christ - Jesus said in John 15:15-17- *No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another.*

> (v12- 17) **LESSON #3 – PRAYER, INTERCESSION AND GRACE!**

- A friend of God follows the heart of God; Moses received God's grace and he wanted the people to receive God's grace, so he intercedes in prayer for them.

Warren Wiersbe, the Bible commentator writes eloquently,

“Moses based his appeal on the grace (favor) of God, for he knew that the Lord was merciful and gracious and that the people were guilty. If God gave them what they deserved, they would have been destroyed! The Jews were God's people and Moses was God's servant. They didn't want an angel to accompany them, for there was nothing special about that. The thing that distinguished Israel from the other nations was that their God was present with them, and that's what Moses requested. His heart must have leaped for joy when he heard God promise to accompany the people and lead them to the place of rest that He had promised.”

> **Let's be people of PRAYER – INTERCESSION & GRACE!**

- **What is true intercession?**

It is the act of petitioning God or praying on behalf of another person or group. The sinful nature of this world separates human beings from God. It has always been necessary, therefore, for righteous individuals to go before God to seek reconciliation between Him and His fallen creation.

One of the earliest and best examples of intercession of this type occurs in Gen 18, where Abraham speaks to God on behalf of Sodom. His plea is compassionate; it is concerned with the well-being of others rather than with his own needs. Such selfless concern is the mark of all true intercession.

Another good example is the intercessory prayers of Moses. The leader of a nation and a righteous man, Moses successfully petitioned God on behalf of the Hebrew people (Ex 15:25). Even the Pharaoh asked Moses to intercede for him (Ex 8:28).

But just as righteous men often succeeded in reconciling Creator and creation, the Bible also reminds us that the ongoing sinfulness of a people can hinder the effects of intercession (1 Sam 2:25; Jer 7:16).

The sacrifices and prayers of Old Testament priests (Ex 29:42; 30:7) were acts of intercession which point forward to the work of Christ. Christ is, of course, the greatest intercessor. He prayed on behalf of Peter (Luke 22:32) and His disciples (John 17). Then in the most selfless intercession of all; He petitioned God on behalf of those who crucified Him (Luke 23:34).

But Christ's intercessory work did not cease when He returned to heaven. In heaven He intercedes for His church (Heb 7:25). His Holy Spirit pleads on behalf of the individual Christian (Rom 8:26-27).

Finally, because of their unique relationship to God through Christ, Christians are urged to intercede for all people (1 Tim 2:1-5 - *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*). (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

- Please list the names of people you need to intercede and pray for; then pray for them every day and watch what happens. You will see the power of Jesus Christ loose the devil's strongholds! Souls will be saved, lives will be changed, and God's grace and blessings will flow! Amen!

> (v18-23) **LESSON #4 - LORD, PLEASE SHOW ME YOUR GLORY!**

- Moses said "Please, show me Your glory"

- God has shown us His glory in Jesus Christ, the Son of God! - John 1:14-18 - *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.*

- **Jesus prayed for us to receive HIS GLORY!!!**

John 17:20-26 - *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

> **R U on the GOD'S GLORY TRAIN? ALL ABOARD!!!**

- **Christians are being transformed into the GLORIOUS IMAGE OF GOD!**

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 - *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

- Believers will be fully GLORIFIED at the end of time in HEAVEN!

Philippians 3:20-21 - For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

- Our destination is a GLORIOUS CITY!

Revelation 21:23 - The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

- Shall we pray Matthew 6:9-13:

Our Father which art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen.