

The Old-Time Evangelistic News

Evangelist W. Paul Redmond Sr.

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How Will You Worship the Next Time? (Part 10)

Exodus 24:1-2, 9-11

Last month we began considering the third and final part of this message. It is what I call Marvelous Worship. It is the only kind of worship that is acceptable to God. We have spent much time looking at how those who saw God on Mount Sinai the first time worshiped wrongly the next time they tried to worship God. These are the two wrong kinds of worship that these men did, but it is not the only kind that is wrong. There are a multitude of wrong ways to worship God, and many are practicing them in their so-called worship services today. Only one form of worship is acceptable by God, but sadly few today are offering Biblical worship.

Remember again The Contributor in this worship. Out of 74 men, the only one that desired to worship God again in the right way was Moses. Think about what we know about Moses' relationship with God thus far. God appeared to him in the burning bush. Then He spoke to Moses while in Egypt and then from Mount Sinai. Moses also saw God with the other men in Exodus 24. After that, he spent forty days on Mount Sinai receiving the commandments of God. He comes down the mountain when Aaron makes the golden calf, and eventually returns to the mountain. Right before his return, Moses makes the request to see God's glory. We will consider that request in just a little bit, but think about this man who worships God.

Thirteen times prior to Exodus 33 you will find the clause "*the LORD spake unto Moses.*" Another 32 times the clause "*the LORD said unto Moses*" introduces further communication between God and Moses. Right before Moses' request in Exodus 33:18, the last part of Exodus 33:9 says, "*And the LORD talked with Moses.*" Just

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a few of these statements would be enough to show that Moses had a unique relationship with God, but then God inserts the first part of Exodus 33:11 which says, "*And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.*" Other men have some unique things said about them. Abraham is called "*the Friend of God*" (James 2:23), and David is called a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), but God spoke with Moses face to face. Everything that I have mentioned about Moses is amazing and unique, but Moses is not satisfied with hearing and spending time with God in the past. He could have been satisfied with past experiences, but he is not. He wants something new and fresh from God. May I put it in modern terminology—Moses is not satisfied with last Sunday's or last Wednesday's message. He is ready to go to church and hear something new from God. He is not satisfied with yesterday's or last week's Bible reading. He wants to hear from God again and says so to God. Of all the men of the Bible, I suppose Moses could say that he had heard from God enough. Prior to Moses, God spoke to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He would speak to other priests and prophets after Moses. But of all of them, I think it is safe to say that none had the relationship that Moses had to God. Yet Moses wanted something more from God. Past experiences were not enough. He wanted something now and told that to God. If Moses, after talking to God multiple times in the past, wanted something fresh from God, how can a professing believer today be careless about reading God's Word and hearing God's Word preached? It makes you wonder if they even know the same God. In many instances, I am convinced that they do not.

Do not **ever** tell me that you have heard enough preaching and read enough of your Bible that you will be all right for a few years without doing either. You have not approached the time with God that Moses did, and Moses desired more of God. By the way, let me make it clear that you will not, and no one else will either, speak to God in the same exact manner that Moses did. You will not hear God verbally. God spoke audibly before Scripture was completed, but He has not, nor will He speak audibly to anyone today. He speaks

through His Word today. The more you read it, the more God will speak to your heart through His Word. The more you hear it preached, the more God will speak to your heart. Moses communicated more with God than anyone else, but he was not satisfied with previous times. How can we be satisfied with the past?

Moses was the contributor to this worship, but now notice The Commencement of this Marvelous Worship. It is interesting that God does not just manifest His glory on this occasion. There have been times when God makes some glorious manifestation of Himself both before and after this occasion, but this is a result of Moses' desire to see God. Notice Exodus 33:18, "*And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.*" Notice the words that Moses used. He said, "*I beseech thee.*" Beseech is a word of earnest request or exhortation. Moses was not half-hearted in his desire to see God. The request came from his entire being. The word shew means to see, to look at, to inspect. It is the same word used in Exodus 24:10. There it is translated with the English word saw, but they both come from the same Hebrew word. As we considered earlier in thinking about Moses, he was not satisfied with what he experienced about God in the past. He had seen God. That was obvious, both prior to Exodus 24 and after. Using the same word, he remembers what God had done in the past, but he wants something now. He has seen God, but he wants to see Him again. Can I apply it to us again? He has read God's Word yesterday and by doing so, he heard and saw God in it, but he is not satisfied with yesterday's reading. He wants to see and hear from God today! He listened to the preaching on Sunday or Wednesday and heard and saw God in it, but He is not satisfied with hearing and seeing God in that previous message. He wants something fresh and pleads with God to reveal that to Him.

Notice the last word of Moses' request. He says, "*Shew me thy glory.*" Glory speaks of splendor and honor. Another way to describe it is the magnificence of the LORD. A preacher friend of mine asked me one time if I fully understood the meaning of God's glory. I replied then, and still say now, that I am not sure that we can

fully understand everything that is meant by the glory of God. In the Old Testament passages about the glory of God, it seems that God is visibly showing Himself to some degree. Oftentimes it is in the form of a cloud. In our time, God will not visibly manifest Himself even in a cloud, but we can experience to some extent the glory of God even if we cannot explain it. For us, I believe it will manifest itself in a better understanding of who God is and what He does. That may not explain it well, but I do not know any other way to explain it.

As I have mentioned several times already, Moses had previously seen the glory of God. At least three other times are recorded in Exodus 16:10, 24:16, and 33:9. It is extremely interesting that the last time is very shortly before Moses' request in 33:18. He had seen God in the past, but he wants to see Him again.

The third aspect of this Marvelous Worship is The Constraint. Apparently, Moses asked for something that his human body could not handle. God said, "*Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live*" (Exodus 33:20). God's communication with Moses is described in Exodus 33:11 as face to face, but based upon Exodus 33:20, it was limited to some degree. Moses had never, and could never, see God's face. But even with the constraint, God still honored Moses' request. God said in Exodus 33:19, "*I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.*" Moses may not have fully understood the request, but God knew his heart and was going to manifest Himself in a magnificent way to Moses.

God told Moses in Exodus 33:21-23 that He would put Moses in the cleft of a rock, cover him with His hand as He passed by, then remove His hand so Moses could see God's back parts. After Moses ascended Mount Sinai, Exodus 34:5-7 reveals The Comprehensiveness of the Marvelous Worship. It is interesting that there is no description of what Moses saw, but the verses record what God says about Himself. It is exactly what God said He would do in

Exodus 33:19. He said that He would proclaim the name of the LORD and be gracious and merciful. As He passed by God proclaimed *The Charity of God*—He is merciful, gracious, longsuffering, abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy, and forgiving. He also proclaimed *The Condemnation of God*—He will not clear the guilty, but will visit iniquity. What marvelous truths about God! What He revealed to Moses on the mountain is what we can find about Him in the Bible!

Lastly, notice The Consequence. The last sentence of Exodus 34:29 contains one of the most marvelous statements in Scripture—*“Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.”* Moses spent time with God and did not even realize the change it made in him. When we spend time with God, we will not have to tell everyone, but they will see it in our life. The problem is, Are we worshiping God as we ought to be worshiping Him? Are we worshiping Him according to His commands? Seventy-four men saw God in Exodus 24. Only one desired to worship God correctly the next time. How will you respond? How will you worship the next time?