

Exodus 33-34

Good evening, glad you could join us.

Tonight we will continue our study through the Book of Exodus.

In this book, we have seen God's presence as a huge theme throughout it.

This theme will continue tonight in these two chapters.

Last week we saw one of the most disappointing stories told in human history.

After all Yahweh has done for this nation of slaves.

God delivered them with a mighty display of power out from the yoke and bondage of their Egyptian overlords.

God made a spectacle of the many gods in Egypt, and showed their demonic influences to be powerless in the face of the One True God.

He showed His righteous judgement against Pharaoh and his army, at the same time extending mercy and favor towards the slaves.

God separated to Himself this impoverished nation, and called them His own people.

And they walk out of Egypt as conquerors and taking spoils from a defeated nation for whom they did not lift one spear towards nor did they fight valiantly with a sword.

But they walk out of Egypt, victors, by the power of their God.

God, knowing Pharaoh's heart not give up to defeat so easily, allowed Pharaoh's armies to chase and back these slaves up against a body of water.

God used this as another opportunity to show His love for these people who still have not shown love back.

He opened up the sea, and allowed them to walk through on dry ground, and after the last Hebrew child made his way up out of the water's edge, God release the mighty torrent of water upon those mighty Egyptian Chariots.

God showing His favor to His cherished slaves.

Still yet, they did not, after all of this turn their hearts over to this Deliverer Yahweh.

They complained and murmured, God repeatedly displaying His love and power to these stiffed-neck people.

He provided heavenly food, only to hear their woes about having no meat.

He provided water from a rock, only to hear them grumble all the more.

God finally brings them to Mount Sinai, where in a spectacular show of His glory He delivers His Law and instructions to Moses on how to build His Meeting Tent.

The lightnings and the thunderings, the fire and the cloud could only hold their attention for a few days, before they again grew obstinate and ungrateful.

During Moses' absence, they demand of Moses' cowardly brother to build them a god of gold, that they may worship it as Yahweh.

Aaron loving the newfound respect keeps his new followers pacified by building a golden calf, for which they commit the most heinous of sins around this false beast.

And this seems to be the final straw for Yahweh, He pronounces judgement, a full extermination of this rebellious people.

He will start a new covenant nation through Moses.

And God is about to act on His promise, when an intercessor steps in on behalf of the people.

Moses, who has been chosen to lead these people, has through enormous trial and teaching from God, has now been given a heart just like this God that he serves.

God, all along preparing Moses for this moment.

Moses, goes to prayer on behalf of these people, He appeals to God's Word, and the promises found in it for this nation.

God promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that He would make a nation from their decedents.

And God draws out of Moses a love for these people, that is God like, an unconditional love.

A love that drives Moses to pray in intercession on behalf of them despite of who they are.

And we are reminded that God did not choose this nation because they did anything special to deserve God's attention and love.

God loved them because of Who He Is, and God has a plan for these people.

To use them to fulfill His Own plans, that one day a Savior would arise from this nation that will save His beloved creation from their sins.

God chose them for this purpose, and He will have to endure constant heartbreak and betrayal from these people.

They, for the rest of their history will turn their backs on Yahweh, until eventually; they hang Jesus on the cross, if a full display of rejection.

And Jesus even shows God's heart to these rebellious people in **Matt 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one**

who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

And here in Exodus, God needed a leader who would love these people as He did, sacrificially and unconditionally.

And in the last chapter we see Moses finally arrive to this place that God has led him too.

Ex 32:31-32 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."

Moses is made here, through the testing of God, into a selfless leader.

And he has passed the test, and God will now give him the next test for his ministry to the people.

God has declared He will now change his relationship with this nation, and He will now send His Angel with

this nation, no longer will He Himself lead in a pillar of cloud and fire.

Moses will appeal against this later on.

And this leads us into our text tonight.

The Command to Leave Sinai

33:1 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.' 2 And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. 3 Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."

After Moses interceded on behalf of this people, God spared the people.

However, now God is referring to them as Moses' people, who Moses led out of Egypt.

Again, it seems as though God is still testing this man Moses' heart.

It seems as though God is drawing Moses into a decision here.

Moses could be very content with this statement, "The people, I Moses have brought out of Egypt."

It has a nice ring to it...

And God tells Moses again it will be His Angel that goes before them.

God will not dwell in the midst of these people.

Now this again would be challenge for any man.

Moses was just given, by God really the kingship or rule of these people.

"They are your people Moses."

We will see later, this will lead Moses into a fourth time of intercession on behalf of the people.

But first, God gives His reasoning why He is separating Himself.

He tells him that these people are wicked, and if He does not leave the camp, He will consume them in His wrath.

God tells them they are stiff-necked or stubborn in their rebellion for the 2nd time.

And Moses relays this message and the people repent...

4 And when the people heard this bad news, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments. 5 For the Lord had said to Moses, "Say to the children of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people. I could come up into your midst in one moment and consume you. Now therefore, take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do to you.'" 6 So the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by Mount Horeb.

So this stripping off of their ornaments is showing their sorrow over their sins.

This is much like when Jacob left Laban's house, and he and his household had a spiritual renewal.

Gen 35:2-4 And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments. 3 Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone." 4 So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hands, and the earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem.

And here in Exodus we see the same kind of renewal happening.

This occasion for sin, these ornaments that were used before, to create a false god, would now be wholly set-apart to the One True God and used in His sanctuary.

We will see this later in **Exodus 35:21-22**

21 Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the Lord's offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments.

22 They came, both men and women, as many as had a willing heart, and brought earrings and nose rings, rings and necklaces, all jewelry of gold, that is, every man who made an offering of gold to the Lord

I imagine all of the nations around this nation wondered at this nation of puritans.

The ancient world was so filled with immorality and immodest dress, ornaments, and decorations to highlight beauty.

It is clear that these Hebrew people would stand out now.

After this incident, they have turned from their sin, in a drastic display of repentance.

Now how sad is it, that the very provisions they received from Egypt, really from God's deliverance, was turned into this false idol?

But through this encounter, we see here a characteristic of God that is overwhelmingly undeniable.

We see His mercy towards this rebellious people, as they are standing there in essence with their hand in the cookie jar.

All their pagan ornaments still on, and He gives them opportunity to repent.

And they do, and we see God, relents from His fierce wrath, but this will also mean some changes will have to take place.

In order to spare this people from God's wrath, Moses takes his own tent outside the camp, and makes a temporary tent of meeting, until the actual tabernacle could be made.

Moses Meets with the Lord

7 Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the Lord went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp. 8 So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched

Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. 9 And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. 10 All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door. 11 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.

Now there is just something very sweet about repentance.

You see after this great humbling for the nation of Israel, we see this time of genuine worship and honor given to Yahweh.

They are humiliated by the choices they made to dance around a manmade idol.

Their thoughts consumed with failure, “How did we get so far, after seeing God in move in so many ways?”

They found themselves worked up into a frenzy of false worship, only to have it wreak complete havoc on their lives; the consequences of that sin almost destroyed them.

But God is so merciful, time and time again with these people.

He still meets with Moses in this tent; although the relationship has changed here, God meets him outside the camp; God is still leading this repentant people group with the sign of the pillar of cloud.

It says that God is speaking to Moses face-to-face, or more literally mouth-to-mouth, so not by dreams or visions, but clearly and directly.

Moses, the more his life aligns with the heart of God towards God's people, the more special the relationship is between God and Moses.

They are talking as friends talk to one another now.

Now last week we had this climax of sinful rebellion, and here the scene has changed dramatically.

After the remorseful repentance of the people, we have a calm, and time of worship.

And you know... really this nation of stiff-necked people coming to God and rebelling against God, is no different than the realities of our own lives.

Be honest with yourself tonight, how many times have you found yourselves in the frenzy of dancing around a golden calf or some other idol.

After all God has done in your life, and still you rebel against His ways.

You find in those moments of fleeting pleasure, chaos, confusion, clamor, and a fight within your soul.

We can learn from this nation here tonight, in the seasons of life, in the turmoil of rebellion, their too is times of sweet humiliation and repentance.

Maybe tonight you have found yourself in the midst of a time of sinfully hanging onto your idols, clinging to the pleasures of this world, the lies from the enemy.

Your life is chaotic and noisy.

If you are in this season of your walk with God, please do not stay there, like this nation, rip off your pagan ornaments, turn from your sinful ways, confess your sins, and be restored.

I will tell you from experience, those times of repentance lead to the greatest times of worship with the Lord.

When you crash and hit rock bottom, the clarity we get of our Saving God is like no other time in our lives.

When God pardons our transgressions and sins through our confession and turning from those sins, we find peace, the turmoil calms, life gets a little quieter.

And we worship our gracious and merciful God in such a pure way.

If you are in chaos tonight, make sure you come to God before you leave here, and ask for His cleansing touch, and like this nation, here in our text, be restored.

Now, as Moses is growing in his own calling, he is realizing that his relationship with God cannot rely on

experiences from his past; he wants a deeper understanding of God's presence.

The Promise of God's Presence

12 Then 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 grace in My sight.' 13 Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people."

Now we see here something fascinating happening in Moses' heart, He will not accept the fact that God said they are Moses' people.

Moses will not be puffed up; he will not desire power and position.

He wants nothing else but to know God more, to know His grace more.

He says at the end there, "this nation is your people."

And Moses here seems to be led by God through these trials to get to this point.

Moses here understanding the enormity of what lay ahead, a promise of a new nation.

He knows that if God does not go with them they will be consumed or even consume each other.

Moses in so many words is saying lead me, as I lead your people.

He asks God to show him His way, and more of His grace.

Moses is experiencing the isolation and loneliness of leading God's people.

Moses was just commanded to depart with these rebellious people from this area, they are heading into new lands and new trials await them.

Moses says he cannot lead without God's presence.

Moses cannot lead with only experiences of God from his past; he needs God to strengthen him with a continual presence.

Moses has basically admitted he cannot take it from here. "I need you God, more now than ever."

We cannot rely on past experiences to carry us through this life.

It must be a daily pursuit to know God, and His grace, to ask for new understandings of His presence.

To keep pressing in for more of God, complacency is the playground for Satan.

When we find ourselves content with where we are in our understanding, we stop reading our Bibles, stop listening to teachings, stop fellowshiping at Bible Study.

That is the precise moment Satan whispers in your ear, "Did God really say?"

And when our pursuit of this world becomes greater than pursuit of God, we will find calamity awaits.

Christian, take this lesson from Moses, and even after great revelations from God, ask, "God more, I need more of You."

Moses talked with God as friend, and still that was not enough, he wanted more.

God replies next...

14 And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

And God's reply here holds a very important truth.

Moses' anxieties and wrestlings within will be calmed by God's presence.

God meets Moses in his seeking, and promises His Presence will go with him.

Do you ever notice, when your eyes are on the circumstances and trials before you, you have no rest? You are plotting, planning, frantically figuring out how to overcome.

Yet, if, when you are in the midst of these trying times, you turn your focus toward God, you will find rest.

Isn't Jesus the Full Presentation of Moses' God?

Jesus who says in Matt. 11:28-30 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

When we like Moses here, seek God, to know Him more, our worries lesson, and striving ceases, and we find rest in knowing who God is.

Now Moses was just told by God, that God's Presence would be with him solely.

Again, Moses could have been content with this.

He selfishly could have ended his dialogue with God, and said "Thank you."

He could have been content with his own standing with God.

But God is again testing Moses, drawing out a divine love for God's people, and Moses replies...

15 Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall

be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth."

Moses, the intercessor, again is not content with personal revelation and personal fulfillment.

He pleads on behalf of the people.

"If you don't go with us, then leave us here." Moses says.

Moses does not want a private revelation of God's Presence but he says "Your people and I."

Moses shows the heart of a true shepherd of God here.

I have known too many shepherds who have chased their own personal revelations of God, and left the sheep they were ministering too to flounder.

I have seen so many pastors, some very close to me, walk away from their calling in the name of seeking God for themselves.

They left the people of God behind; they wrecked the faith of those under them, and are guilty of what Jesus warned against in....

Matt 18:6-7 "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. 7 Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!"

These hirelings leave their responsibilities to chase mysteries, new revelations, to fulfill their selfish desire for more for themselves.

Not Moses, even when these people break his heart, when the people fell from grace, in complete rebellion, Moses loved them.

This is what God was bringing out in this man.

You see, ministry is heart breaking, if you are an offended person, or an emotional person, get a job as a banker or something other than a pastor.

Ministry, the way God desires it to be performed, is with the same unconditional love Moses shows here.

He loves these people not because of what they do for him, but because of the grace of God working in his own life.

A true shepherd will stick it out with the people, even as they turn against him.

A calling of God, is something supernatural, it is something given by God.

My wife and I have been savagely torn apart and been stabbed in the back many times, and when we are faced to face with those very people who have hurt us, we find grace in our hearts for them.

We know immediately this is a work of God, there is nothing in the natural man that could make me love that person the way I do.

It is only because of the ultimate show of grace and forgiveness that I have been shown, that there is no other option for me.

I came from the lowest of societies dregs.

I hurt people, I used people, and I lived so viciously against my fellow man.

God found me a monster.

Yet, God pardoned my most heinous of sins and most disgusting transgressions; He washed me clean of my monstrous ways.

How can there be nothing but grace for others in my heart?

For me there is no other option but to show grace, sometimes even as an act of hostility is happening, during the chaos of it all, I know that I am bound to forgive, no matter what is taking place in the moment.

I have watched my wife give so sacrificially of herself to young girls over the years, begging and pleading with them, to watch them for a season walk with the Lord, only to watch them turn their backs on God.

Jess has had her heart crushed more than anybody I have known, yet every one of those young girls still reach out to her in their most desperate of times.

She always prays for them, always loves them, always makes time for them, and they break her heart all the same.

You see those of you in this room, who God has called you to lead, prepare yourself now to love, even when no love is returned.

Prepare your soul for heartbreaks and disappointments.

Prepare yourself for prayers of intercession, through sleepless nights and tears.

This is the reality for those of you who are called to lead in a ministry.

And those tear filled prayers, and those anguishing nights are all a constant reminder of how our God, went selflessly to a cross, for a rebellious and stiff-necked people.

He died for those who were piercing His hands, who were whipping His back, in Jesus' final moments He interceded for those wicked men, and asked the Father to forgive them for they know not what they do.

And this is ministry, for those who look to aspire to the pulpit, or to lead a ministry in the church, most do not know what their ambitions are really asking for.

Ministry, is doing as Moses did here, putting yourself last, and putting those who you are called to lead ahead of yourself.

There are too many hirelings today, who are in the ministry for what they get out of it.

Every minister, every children's ministry teacher, every worship leader, every usher, every elder, every father and husband, anyone who is called to lead, must check their hearts and motives.

As we press into to know God more, ask Him to reveal His love through you to others.

Do you ever notice a parent who has a wayward child, they have a prodigal out there in the world, living among the pigs, that those parents so often have the greatest understanding of God's Presence.

They know God, they know God's own heart break over the rebellion of their loved ones, and that parent

and God seem to converse so sweetly, as friends, because the two understand one another greatly, the parent knows God's heartache over a lost child.

We love when no love is returned, that is what Moses models for us here...

Moses has God's heart here, and he pleads on behalf of the people.

God replies so graciously...

~~17 So the Lord said to Moses,~~ "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name."

The petition is answered... the Presence of God will still be with the people...

Moses though, is still not satisfied with all these revelations with God; he continues to ask for more.

Have you ever been reading God's Word, and God just reveals some new truth about Himself, He gives you a new revelation, and answer to a long awaited prayer? The tendency in those moments is to do as Moses does here and ask for more!

18 And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."

19 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."

In Moses' seeking, he wants to see God's Glory.

For which God replies that request will be answered only through the revealing of His Name.

God reveals here His nature as defined by Goodness, He will be gracious to whom He will be gracious and have compassion on who He will have compassion.

And it is through God's divine Grace and Mercy that the sinful nation of Israel will know God.

Moses is told he will not be able to see God, but only His after effects, or behind Him.

God will protect Moses with His Own Hand from the effects of what would happen if Moses saw His Glory.

I find it interesting that preacher's today talk about seeing God's Glory, or they are the means of God showing His Glory, and they speak of visions and even being taken up into the presence of God's Glory.

Moses, was taken closer than any other man, and had to be protected.

Jesus, now through His Word, is where God is revealed.

Remember when Philip asked to see the Father, Jesus replied...

John 14:8-11

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with

you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

Jesus is the full presentation of God the Father, in all His Mercy and Grace.

If you want to know more of God, know His Word more, if your desire is to see God's Glory, it is found in His Word.

If it is the fullness you are after, it is found in Jesus, not visions of Glory.

All that God is; was revealed in His Son.

Now we seek God's Presence through His revealed Son.

So Moses here in our text, has sought more, not only for himself, but for the Nation of Israel.

And God answers his petitions, and next will renew His Covenant with the people.

I am so happy we serve a God of second chances, a renewing God.

Moses Makes New Tablets (Deut. 10:1-5)

34:1 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."

So we have for a second time, God establishing His Holiness, reinstating everything that took place at the first writing of the Law.

Only Moses is to come to the top of the mountain.

And God so patiently teaching them again, all that He has tried to establish in their hearts, that He is Holy, He is set apart, this Law is Holy and is set apart.

And again, aren't you glad He is patient with you in the lessons that He has taught you in life?

So Moses obeys next...

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.

5 Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. 6 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."

God here in this second encounter reveals more depth to Moses to Who He Is.

He gives the attributes of His Holy Name...

He is Merciful, and Gracious, longsuffering, He abounds in Goodness and Truth, keeping mercy towards thousands and forgiving iniquity and sin.

What a revelation here!

There are so many misguided or misinterpreted ideas of who God is.

Some have a picture of an austere, angry God, looking for any opportunity to pour out His wrath on humanity.

But God Himself gives us His attributes, He is so gracious to those who come humble and repentant from their sins.

He suffers long with us, He is patient.

This description of God is not a God who just writes us off at the first mistake we made; He waits patiently for us to come to Him.

Our God, no matter how severe you think you have transgressed against Him, will not turn any away from receiving His Grace.

You see the statement, God is Love, is true.

This is a picture of the ultimate kind of love.

But God also here reveals something else in His Name, for those who continue in their rebellion and sins, they will be held accountable.

The effects of their sins will be felt on generations to come after them.

You visit any prison and you will see this to be true, most of those men are products of their father's sins, who in turn were products of their father's sins.

This is an undisputable fact, the sins you unashamedly practice in front of your children will have some kind of effect on them.

Teen mothers more often than not will have daughters that become teen mothers.

Men who abandon their families will have sons who do the same, drug addicts will pass on the heritage as well.

We still have racism all over the world thanks to the sins of fathers, who passed their wicked ideologies down to their children, and grandchildren.

It is a horrible cycle, and all it takes for the cycle to be broken is for the sinner to appeal to the grace and mercy of God, and they will know His abounding goodness and truth.

I watched my wife stop this cycle in her family, by reaching out for God's Grace, and it worked the other direction.

Instead of allowing the sins of her parent's affect her future, she reached out for the grace of God, and it spread to her parents and other people she was close too.

God's grace is a much more powerful force than a sinful heritage.

Now we do not serve a God with a split personality.

He is only good, He is Holy, and anything that comes against His Holiness ignites a response from God.

It is like our hands; there is only one reaction it has when it touches a red-hot stovetop; it will pull away in seething pain instantly.

It cannot bear to be in contact with that heat.

However, when my 2-year-old Lola walks next to me, and she holds my hand, that little hand is so comforting and pleasant; my hand cannot help but receive it and embrace it with my hand.

Her little hand also causes a response from me; it is welcomed and received, not rejected.

And God, when we relate to Him in our sinful state, when we unapologetically come against His Holy Law in complete rebellion, He cannot receive us, will are turned instantly over to knowing His wrath.

Now God, when we come repentant, humble, through His Grace and Mercy, He cannot help but to bring us to Himself.

When we come through the grace offered by His Son's Sacrifice, we understand it is through what Jesus did on the Cross that we can know His Grace, we reach out to Him in that manner.

He cannot help but to embrace us on the condition of His love displayed here in His Name.

That is why Paul says...**Rom 5:20 But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.**

So if you have not known God through what He has revealed here in our text, know Him this way tonight, reach out and grab His hand of mercy, and receive a pardon for your sins.

So now, after this revelation Moses has but one response... Worship.

8 So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped. 9 Then he said, "If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we are a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance."

Moses appeals to this Merciful God, to forgive the iniquity of the nation of Israel.

Even though they are stiff-necked.

And notice, Moses here identifies himself with those he is praying for.

In light of the revelation of who God is; Moses understands he is no different than those he is leading, they all need God's forgiveness.

Aren't you glad God has mercy for the stiff-necked?

Most of us would not be here had he not forgiven our obstinate ways...

And now God will next renew His Covenant with the people.

The Covenant Renewed (Ex 23:14-19; Deut. 7:1-6; 16:1-17)

10 And He said: "Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the

Lord. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.
11 Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. 12 Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. 13 But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images 14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), 15 lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, 16 and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods. 17 "You shall make no molded gods for yourselves.

This now is more than just words for this nation now. They know how easy it is for them to fall into this trap of idolatry.

They will take this a little more serious now that they have paid dearly for coming against this Holy Covenant.

They now understand why God is so severe with the false forms of worship; they know now why they need to tear down all the false idols in the land of Canaan.

They know personally, if those things are not dealt with harshly, they can become a snare to them.

This people is a far cry now from the people who arrogantly proclaimed “all that you have commanded we will obey.”

They now have a healthy awareness of who they are, and why total obedience is the only option.

How many of us did not fully understand the impact of coming against God’s Word, until we so arrogantly challenged it?

We set out in this world with all the warnings from our parents, pastors, teachers, who pleaded not to rebel against God’s Word.

We thought we knew better, we set out, and disregarded all that was told us.

The bars were not so bad, the club scene seemed harmless enough, the drugs were not as threatening as they made out to be.

We set out, and found ourselves in the orgy of this world, only to find the fun was brief, the feelings were false, and the bondage was swift.

We found our way back to God; He restored and renewed us in the covenant of His Son's Blood.

Now we know; we have scars to remind us of the severity of disobedience.

We are humbled by our arrogance we once had, and now we listen a little more intently to all God is telling us.

This is where this nation is at now, this is the second time God is telling them this covenant and it would have a greater impact after their failure.

And God will continue to remind them of all the covenant...

18 "The Feast of Unleavened Bread you shall keep. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, in the appointed time of the month of Abib; for in the month of Abib you came out from Egypt.

I can almost feel the shift in the tone of the dialogue here, the weight now of all that God is saying...

He reminds them to keep the feast that reminds them of their deliverance from Egypt.

He again tells them....

19 "All that open the womb are Mine, and every male firstborn among your livestock, whether ox or sheep.

20 But the firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb. And if you will not redeem him, then you shall break his neck. All the firstborn of your sons you shall redeem.

"And none shall appear before Me empty-handed.

21 "Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; in plowing time and in harvest you shall rest.

22 "And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end.

23 "Three times in the year all your men shall appear before the Lord, the Lord God of Israel. 24 For I will cast out the nations before you and enlarge your borders; neither will any man covet your land when you go up to appear before the Lord your God three times in the year.

25 "You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leaven, nor shall the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover be left until morning.

26 "The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring to the house of the Lord your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk."

27 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel." 28 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.

All of this was given to Moses for the second time.

Again Moses was gone forty days.

But we hear nothing about the camp this time.

The people wait patiently for Moses to come back with word if God has forgiven them or not.

The joy and relief they must have had when they saw Moses coming with the two tablets, and the covenant renewed.

Oh the worship and thanksgiving that came from this camp was probably historic.

And Moses too, must have been relieved, that this people whose hearts were set on going back to Egypt at every hardship, is now humble before God Almighty.

Moses, so excited here to bring the Renewed Covenant back to the people, he is not even aware that this encounter with God has changed him as well.

The Shining Face of Moses

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. 30 So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. 31 Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses talked with them. 32 Afterward all the children of Israel came near, and he gave them as commandments all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. 33 And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. 34 But whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded. 35 And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the

veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him.

This section reveals to us the transforming nature of having a deep communion with God.

Moses face shown with God's light.

It frightened the people, as they were frightened to draw near to God themselves.

Moses a truly meek leader was not even aware of his own stature before the people.

He is so excited to reveal God's Word to these people.

He does not realize the pressing into God's Presence has changed him.

The people would prefer not to see this effect of God's Glory.

He ends up having to put a veil over his face to hide the glory.

The Apostle Paul uses this portion of scripture to bring clarity to the new covenant we are a part of now...

2 Cor. 3:12-18 Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech — 13 unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.

It is interesting that Paul says Moses had to cover his face, because the glory would fade away.

So the covering up was not so much because of the fear of God's presence manifesting on Moses face.

Their fear came from the thought of God leaving their presence, and the glory fading.

They too wanted to go no further in their journey without God's Glory.

When Moses' face would fade, they feared they were getting what they deserved by transgressing the covenant.

But Paul says...

14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. 15

But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. 16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

Every time the Covenant was read, and the weight of what it required, the impossibility of what it demands. It left the hearer incomplete if the Law was where they related God.

The Jews thought it was complete, but failed to understand what it pointed too.

Until we come to Jesus, He makes the veil unnecessary, in Jesus the Glory never fades away.

Our faith in Jesus, fulfills the requirements of all that covenant required.

And we find Freedom or as Paul puts it next...

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 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.

Paul explaining that that covenant on Mt. Sinai was a fading glory.

It was destined to be surpassed it was completed in Jesus.

Moses' revelation was partial, and made complete in Jesus.

Maybe you are here tonight, and your life is just incomplete, you are missing something.

Maybe you think if you live up to some moral code you are doing okay.

Maybe you believe if your good outweighs your bad, you will be fine in the end.

Well, tonight we saw that no one can live up to God's standard written in His Law.

Even the Holy Man Moses had to appeal to God's Grace.

The fact is; anyone looking honestly at his or her life knows there is no good thing found in our self.

The purpose of this Holy Covenant is to point the person to the One Who fulfilled it.

Jesus is the fulfillment of all that you are seeking in life.

We come through His sacrifice on the cross, and find the wholeness.

If you have not done this yet, please come tonight.

Now if God has spoken to you on anything else please come forward and get prayer tonight.

Our elders Steve Dwiggin and John Toomey are available to pray.

Let us pray as the worship team comes up...