

Show Me Your Glory

Long Beach Alliance Church • April 22nd, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

Then Moses said, “I pray You, show me Your glory!” And He said, “I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.”

~Exodus 33:18-19 (NASB)

1) The Problem Of God’s Wrath

- A) Despite the removal of the golden calf from the midst of the community (Exodus 32:20) and the removal of the rebellious leaders of idolatry from among God’s people (32:27-28), God was still angry at Israel’s sins (32:30).
- B) Knowing this, Moses goes directly to God to intercede on behalf of the people with confession for their sin (32:31-32), but God doesn’t accept Moses’ atonement offer (32:33-35). Just because someone asks for forgiveness, does not mean God is compelled to provide forgiveness!
- C) Abruptly, God commands Moses to pack up and head out to the promised land (33:1), sending an angel of the LORD to drive out all the enemies of Israel from before God’s people (33:2). Perhaps God’s anger had finally subsided!
- D) But then God drops a bomb on Israel. He is not coming with them. He is so angry, He is taking His presence from them, and sending them on their way alone (33:3).

2) A Unified Response Of Repentance

- A) This is a critical moment for Israel! Will they respond with defiance and independence from God? Will they go back to their idolatry which they learned as slaves in Egypt? Will they try to live life without God’s presence?
- B) For one of the first times since leaving Egypt, God’s people have the correct response! The people are despondent, filled with sorrow for their sin, and repentant to the point of newfound obedience to God (33:4-6).
- C) Even though the people had sinned against God, and God was now threatening to leave them alone, the people authenticated their repentance in unified worship (33:7-10).

3) Face To Face With God’s Glory

- A) Moses’ interactions with God were uniquely intimate amongst all the people of Israel (33:11), and Moses is often tireless in appealing to God on behalf of His people, which Moses had been commanded by God to lead (33:12-13).
- B) Moses’ appeals to God are developing, showing a greater dependence on God’s own promises and glory for His requests. In other words, Moses is asking for the exact things which are consistent with God’s character. In order to serve God well, we must know God’s character!
- C) Moses wasn’t interested in just having an angel lead the people, He wanted God Himself. He needed God’s presence (33:14), and wouldn’t go forward without it (33:15-16).
- D) Finally, God’s wrath subsides (remember the repentance of the people?!), and He agrees to go with His people (33:17).
- E) But Moses is not done! If he is to lead God’s people, and they were being saved in order to reveal God’s glory, then he wanted God to show him His glory (33:18).
- F) God grants Moses’ request (with precautions), further preparing God’s people for their future journey (33:19-23).