A Prayer for Glory March 1, 2020

*Exodus 33:12-19 Series: Seeking the Face of God*

Do you know what you need the most? You need to see the glory of God. You need to see God for who he is, because that relativizes everything else. – D. A. Carson

Intro: Sometimes God tests us in prayer to see what we’ll settle for.

1. Will you settle for a land of milk and honey without God’s presence?
2. God offers the Israelites His blessings without His presence.

v. 3 *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.*

v. 12 … *See, you say to me, ‘Bring up this people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me.*

1. Moses pleads for God’s presence, even at the expense of the Promised Land.

v. 13 *please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight*

v. 15 *And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.”*

1. Are your prayers about stuff or about God?

Jeremiah 31:14 *I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the LORD.*

* How do you feel about the comparison of prayer to a market negotiation? Why would God test us in prayer like this?
* Why would it have been tempting to settle for the Promised Land without the presence of the Lord?
* What are some ways that we can settle for milk and honey without God today?

1. Will you settle for God’s blessing for you but not others?
2. God offers rest to Moses but not to the nation.

v. 14 *And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”*

* + “I will give you rest” is singular, directed to Moses rather than the entire nation.

Exodus 32:10 *Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.*

1. Moses pleads for God’s blessing on the nation, even at his own expense.

v. 13 *Consider too that this nation is your people.*

v. 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?”*

Exodus 32:32 *But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.*

1. Are your prayers sacrificial or selfish?

Romans 9:3 *For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.*

* Why might it have been tempting for Moses to consider God starting a new nation with him?
* What are some ways we can become more sacrificial and less selfish in our praying?

1. Will you settle for God’s help but not His glory?
2. God offers to lead the nation into Promised Land.

v. 17 *And the LORD said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do …”*

1. Moses pleads to see God’s glory.

v. 18 *Moses said, “Please show me your glory.”*

1. Do you pray to see more of God in your life?

Moses leverages his favour with God to intercede for sinful people.

v. 12 *Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’*

v. 13 *Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, … Consider too that this nation is your people.*

v. 16 *For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people?*

v. 17 *This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.*

Jesus leverages His favour with the Father to make intercession for us!

Matthew 17:5 *… “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”*

Hebrews 7:25 *Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*

* With the promise of the land and God’s presence, Moses didn’t need to ask for more. Why did he ask to see God’s glory?
* What are we asking for when we ask to see God’s glory and what difference does it make?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Psalm 63.

Notes