

Prayer, Promises, and the Presence of God

Scripture: Exodus 33:1–23

Series: **Ransomed and Redeemed: Rescued by God's Grace**

Sunday, February 23, 2014



Overview

In this passage, Israel is described as a “stiff-necked” people. The people respond in worship to this Word from God and Moses prays for God’s favor and presence among the people. Moses asks to see God’s glory and God discloses his goodness and grace. He promises for His presence to go before them as they travel. Ultimately, Jesus Christ is the promise of Grace and is God’s bodily presentation of goodness and glory. Christ sends the Holy Spirit to indwell in God’s people with His presence.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think God called Israel “stiff-necked”? What are some of the ways they demonstrated this throughout the book of Exodus? How are we like Israel? In what ways are we “stiff-necked”?
2. Discuss the concept of repentance. What is repentance? How is it different than “turning a new leaf?” Describe true repentance as a group.
3. When you feel far from God, if you’re being honest, what is your response? What are some reasons that we respond this way? How *should* we respond? How is Israel an example for us in verses 7–11?
4. Moses prays for God to show him (and Israel) God’s ways. How do we learn God’s ways? How do we receive God’s direction? *Discuss such concepts as prayer, Scripture, and the Holy Spirit’s presence.*
5. God’s presence went with the people as they traveled (verse 14). How does God’s presence go with us today in this age of the Church?
6. Discuss the glory of God (verse 18). What is God’s glory? How is it seen in the passage? Why is God someone who cannot be seen in His full glory? What is different about Jesus’ presence on earth? *Discuss the incarnation: the full humanity and full Godness of Jesus.*
7. What is God’s goodness? Where can we see God’s goodness?
8. Discuss the grace of God (verse 19). What is God’s grace? How does it work?
9. If you have not discussed how Jesus is the fullness of God’s glory, goodness and grace in questions six through eight, discuss it now. How do we receive all this through Christ (Hebrews 2:9)? How does repentance fit in this?