

## **I. Introduction**

- A. Over the last several weeks we've been discussing different facets of the dream we feel that God has for us as a spiritual family. We've talked about Revival, Unity, and Mission.
- B. This week we will look at God's desire for intimacy with us as an expression of His own glory (John 17:24). God's glory is far more than His beauty and power. His glory also speaks of the depths of who He is – His thoughts, emotions, and character.
- C. The primary way we comprehend God's glory is through His word and specifically through the passages in which He discloses details about Himself.
- D. A key regarding the knowledge of God is that those who hunger to know God will be met by Him and filled with revelation of His nature (Prov 2:1-5, Jer 29:13, James 4:8).

## **II. Moses' Desire for God**

A. Moses had enjoyed incredible fellowship with God. The scripture describes that when Moses would pray, the glory of God would appear above His tent (Exodus 33:9). The presence of God was so profound that the entire camp of the children of Israel would stand to worship the Lord from their own tent doors (Exodus 33:10).

B. Moses spoke with the Father, "face to face, as a man speaks to his friend." (Exodus 33:11) Undoubtedly these moments of intimacy with God had impacted Moses deeply. Consider Moses' requests:

1. Teach me your ways, that I may really know you.

**Exodus 33:13** If it is true that You look favorably on me, **let me know Your ways so I may understand You more fully** and continue to enjoy Your favor. And remember that this nation is Your very own people."

2. I don't want to go from here if You do not come with us.

**Exodus 33:15** Then Moses said, "**If You don't personally go with us, don't make us leave this place.**

3. How will any other nations know that we are your people if your presence is not among us?

**Exodus 33:16** How will anyone know that You look favorably on me—on me and on Your people—if You don't go with us? For Your presence among us sets Your people and me apart from all other people on the earth."

4. Let me see your Glory (face) (Ex 33:18)

### III. The Father's Self Description

**Exodus 34:5-7** 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."

- A. When God passes before Moses, He declares His name to Moses. As a manifestation of His glory, He declares His nature.
- B. There are massive implications to each of the facets God reveals about His own character.
- C. It is from this revelation that we are able to peer into the nature of God and allow the knowledge of Him to impact our hearts and change the way we view Him, ourselves, and others.
- D. Merciful
- E. Gracious
- F. Longsuffering
- G. Abounding in Goodness
- H. Abounding in Truth
- I. Keeps Lovingkindness for thousands
- J. Forgives Iniquity, Transgression, and Sin
- K. By no means clearing the guilty

### IV. Jesus' Desire: An expression of God's glory

**John 17:24** "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

- A. Jesus is the express image of the Father (Heb 1:3)
- B. His desires perfectly express the desires of the Father (John 5:19)
- C. Jesus desire for intimacy with us His people is the same as the Father's desire.
- D. His desire is to fully reveal His glory to us, i.e. fully reveal His hear.