

I Know Thee by Name

Exodus 32:26 – 33:23

~ We need to get back on the right path in our Spiritual Safari; that is, the pathway that recognizes the will of the Father over our reading and writing and learning and comprehending. In our last report, we saw one of the most tender-loving scenes we could have possibly witnessed as Moses interceded for his people. Actually, God said to Moses, “get down from the mountain, your people have sinned.” To which Moses replied, “... those are Your people - because I don’t recall having a people.” Moses told God that He brought them out of Egypt and they’re His problem now. Moses gave God some reasonable reasons, too. I think we should all be a little more intelligent in our prayer life than we are. We need to learn how to lay hold of God in prayer. There’s no use trying to say things to Him with your lips that you don’t mean with your heart; God already knows the heart of men. I wish we all knew how to take hold of the mighty arm of God as Moses did in our last report.

Remember, Moses came down from the mountain and he was pretty angry. He threw the tablets down and broke them. Then Aaron made that ridiculous excuse about how he poured gold in the fire and the calf came walking out. Let’s not laugh at Aaron because our excuses are even more utterly shameful than that for the things we have done wrong! That was a time of real sin for the children of Israel. They had gone all the way to nudism and that meant pornography. So, Moses moved in to perform extreme surgery; a critical response was required because they had the cancer of sin growing. Moses wasn’t concerned that it might mean cutting away half the body to remove this malignant growth! Sin is an awful cancer that must be dealt with....

XXXII

26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

Exodus 32:26 – 33:23

27 And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.

28 And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.

~ This is extreme and it's quite serious, to be sure. The camp got cleaned up in a hurry that day, friends. If the children of Israel had gone into idolatry out there in the wilderness they would have been absolutely destroyed as a nation. The way liberalism crept into the church is through a complete and total ignorance of the Word of God. They don't know anything about the Bible and what they do know they have all mixed up. No knowledge equals no faith, friends; not when the Bible is available to you and you simply neglect learning it. Most people cannot define the great doctrines in the Word of God. Moses would handle these people in a not-so-nice way. Was it better to save the nation or let it be destroyed because of the idolatry of a few? These men that were slain were the leaders of Israel that had taken over when Moses went away. If this had been permitted to continue NONE of them would have ever entered the Promised Land. The church accepts people largely on a good-ole-boy system and that has allowed liberalism to take over completely. Church after church has lost its influence this way. A Christian cannot compromise with blatant abuse of the Word of God and any compromise is immoral. We are really just plain stupid today, honestly, with the way we handle evil in the world. Corrupt judges mean the law does not get enforced! Obviously, Moses does not compromise....

29 For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.

30 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement to cover up your sin.

31 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.

~ If you want to get along with God, you're going to have to agree with Him about your sin. This is Moses confession and he calls sin what it is - sin. Moses lays it on the line here with God. Friends, I don't care who you are; if you want to have fellowship with God this is how you're going to have to approach Him. Moses spells it out here – they had made gods of gold. Moses takes his place here amongst the people and Moses hadn't even had anything to do with the golden calf. Just as Job was perfect and had no sin found in him; yet God told Job he needed to repent. Well, Moses is telling God that if He isn't going to forgive their sins then He may as well blot him out, too! I wonder exactly what Moses thought he was going to say to complete this first sentence in verse thirty-two. Thank God He deals with our sins personally and individually ~

32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.

33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

34 Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.

35 And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.

XXXIII

~ Whenever we see an Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament we are talking about the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ. God tells Moses here that the children of Israel are to get up and go to the Promised Land. We will resume the wilderness march at this point in Numbers because the remainder of Exodus and all of Leviticus is going to be a continuation of the

instructions for the tabernacle service. God did not dwell IN the tabernacle; God has never resided in a building. That is a heathen and pagan notion. The tabernacle is the place where the children of Israel could approach God and worship Him according to Gods prescribed procedure! The main lesson of the tabernacle is the approach to God! That approach, naturally, reveals Christ Jesus. This is all given to us in picture form so that we can know how to approach God....

1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I sware unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it:

2 And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite:

3 Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way.

4 And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man did put on him his ornaments.

5 For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a stiffnecked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee.

6 And the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by the mount Horeb.

7 And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp.

~ The ornaments they had were heathen signs that they had other gods. This was in the form of earrings and necklaces. Some people wear a cross on a necklace to indicate they're a Christian; well, these people weren't wearing crosses and they weren't to make images of God anyways. No, the ornaments were all bad. The tabernacle here has not been fully constructed in all of its detail. I think at this point it is just a bare bones meeting tent or possibly only the fence that goes around the perimeter. Well, it says the Lord came to speak to Moses here, so we have to ask again if any man has ever seen God. The answer is no; no man has seen God at any time ever. Yet, Jesus said, "he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father." The Lord Jesus is the revelation of God because He is God! The human flesh was a veil here as Moses speaks face to face with God as he would have with a friend. That friend was an Angel of the Lord....

8 And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle.

9 And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses.

10 And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door.

11 And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

~ This is the third mention of Joshua we have seen. Joshua will lead the children of Israel after Moses dies. Joshua was just about as unlikely a candidate to do this as any man as we shall see. Well, Joshua won't leave the tabernacle today so I'm sure he witnessed Moses turning to God again and saying....

12 And Moses said unto the LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet

thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.

13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

~ Paul said he wanted to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. Philip said, "... show us the Father and it sufficeth us." If we are sincere children of God, we will want to know Him and His Son! Here, Moses wants to know God because Moses knows he can't make it on his own. Moses recognizes that if God does not pull them through, then this will be the end. God hears Moses cry, too, by the way. Moses becomes quite intimate with God as he says to God, "... show me Thy glory!" That sure is a strange thing to say if Moses could see God face to Face....

14 And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.

15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.

16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.

17 And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.

18 And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

19 And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

20 And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

21 And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:

22 And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:

23 And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my representation: but my face shall not be seen.

~ Paul says something similar in Romans, but the point is: God is sovereign, friends. You may as well just write it down that you aren't going to see God face to Face – not today! We worship today in spirit and in truth. God says His Face shall not be seen. The Lord Jesus said when He returned there would be a sign in Heaven and I believe that speaks of the Shekinah glory. The Shekinah glory was the representation these people had in the wilderness in the day we are studying.

When Christ came to this world, He took upon Himself human flesh and when He did, His glory was not here. Jesus was God but He took a very humble place amongst men. That's why Jesus could make the claim that he that hath seen Him hath seen the Father. You and I are not going to see God the Father, but I believe we will see the Lord Jesus Christ; and He will be in human form for us to behold. Today, Christ is in a glorified body in Heaven. The form He took down here is the form we will see Him in, to be sure. THAT is when we shall be like Him! That is the anticipation and the hope of believers today; of those who are walking by faith. We see Moses is walking by faith in our Spiritual Safari today and we see Moses tell God that His presence must go with them or they aren't going. We need His presence to face the problems of our everyday existence, too. We need God to go with us on our safari - or we aren't going, either, you may be sure
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