

THE GLORY OF GOD

Week 5 – “Please Show Me Your Glory”

October 9, 2018

Romans 11:22 - *consider the goodness and severity of God*

Severity carries the meaning of abruptness. Do you think God is abrupt/sudden?

All of God’s attributes work in harmony. There is no conflict between His goodness and love and His justice and wrath. They work in HARMONY. God’s holiness/His justice provide a backdrop for His display of mercy. Without God’s righteous judgment, mercy has no meaning. We’re sinners and there are consequences for our sin. Mercy is God’s freely pardoning and blessing those who do NOT deserve mercy. God would not need to extend mercy if He hadn’t judged us for our sin.

In Exodus 32 God threatened to wipe the entire nation out, replacing it with a new nation from the offspring of Moses (Ex. 32:7-10). Would there be a problem with that? Why?

Moses petitioned God to spare this people, “God you’re going to look bad in the eyes of the nations surrounding us” (Ex. 32:11-12). What were God’s promises to Israel? Would God renege on His promises? On what are you basing your answer?

As we’re reading through Scripture and we find accounts that hint at God possibly VEERING from His plan...what are we to think? NEVER would God veer from what He has decreed. If God veered from His plan, He would NOT be God! Eze. 36:16-23 – *...you’ve profaned My name everywhere you’ve gone. Because I have concern for My holy name – I’m going to deliver on my promises to you. It’s NOT for your sake that I do this but for My holy name’s sake. ...then the nations shall know that I am the LORD when I am hallowed in your name.*

In Ex. 33 we read of Moses’ personal tent of meeting where Moses could go “outside the camp” and draw near to God. And, the people watched as Moses went “outside the camp” to commune with God. And, those who sought the Lord, went to the tent of meeting. What does “outside the camp” mean?

EXODUS 33:11-23 - *So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. ¹² Then Moses said to the LORD, ‘See, You say to me, ‘Bring up this people.’ But You have not let me know whom You will send with me.* Whom did God promise He would send? Ex. 32:34 (cross reference Isa. 63:9)

Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.' ¹³ Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace (getting what we don't deserve) in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight.

What is Moses asking God?

Did God answer Moses?

What are God's ways?

Moses saw firstborns die in the homes in Egypt that didn't have the blood applied to the lintel and doorposts. He saw the pillar of cloud as darkness to Pharaoh's army and the pillar was a pillar of light by night to the children of Israel. He saw the Red Sea part and allow the Jews to pass through on dry ground. He saw the Red Sea come together and drown Pharaoh's army. Did Moses comprehend? Would you consider what Moses had witnessed was severity?

Moses tells God... *And consider that this nation is Your people.'*

¹⁴ *And He said, 'My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest*

God never said He would remove His presence. How could God remove His presence? Everything is in God's presence.

Psa. 139:7-10 - where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰ Even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.

God spoke with Moses face-to-face.... The Hebrew word for *face* is *paniym*. *Face-to-face* is *paniym-to-paniym* – “presence-to-presence.”

Presence means the state of existing. Presence can mean the “air” of a person. Presence can mean a person that exists, their impact, who they are...they are present in a place but they are not seen.

We also need to know that “face”/“presence” literally means “the part that turns”. How do we understand “the part that turns” – EVERYTHING is in God's presence. God didn't remove His presence.

¹⁵ *Then he said to Him, 'If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.*

What was Moses facing? Moses no longer needed to fear facing an angry and powerful Pharaoh, but he did have to think about all of the Canaanites in the Promised Land.

¹⁶ *For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth. How were the Jewish people separate?*

¹⁷ So the LORD said to Moses, 'I will also do this thing that you have spoken for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.'

¹⁸ And he (Moses) said, 'Please, show me Your glory.' I'm suggesting this was a prayer to know God more deeply. I'm suggesting that Moses asked God to show him ALL of His glory.

God's response:

¹⁹ Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." ²⁰ But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." ²¹ And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. ²² So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. ²³ Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

What are your observations? Your questions?

Does there seem to be a discrepancy between Ex. 33:11 and Ex. 33:20? We read that *the LORD spoke to Moses face-to-face, as a man speaks to his friend* in Ex. 33:11. But, when Moses asks God to show him ALL His glory, we read in Ex. 33:20 - *You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.* And Ex. 33 ends with, *and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.* It appears that Moses will see part of God's glory, but not all of God's glory. Moses will see God's "back", but not His "face".

What is God's goodness? The goodness of God is prominent in the opening chapters of the Bible. Repeatedly, God pronounced everything which He created as "good" (Gen. 1:4, 10, 18; I Tim. 4:4). In the Garden of Eden, Satan's first ploy was to tempt Eve to doubt God's goodness.

I'm suggesting that the goodness of God is that aspect of God's person which Moses was enabled to see fully—he saw "all of God's goodness."

Exod. 33:19 - *I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.*

I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. Is this a description/explanation of God's goodness?

And, we then see a loving demonstration of God's goodness as we continue to read Ex. 33:21....

²¹ And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. ²² So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and

will cover you with My hand while I pass by. ²³ Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.”

If Moses saw all of God’s goodness, what of the severity of God?

Moses saw God’s severity. He beheld the anger of God as the people worshiped the golden calf (cf. [Ex. 32:10](#)). About 3,000 were killed by the sons of Levi on that day. The dimension of God’s character which would encourage the heart of Moses was the goodness of God, which gave Moses (and Israel) hope of forgiveness and of God’s continued presence among His people.

God’s attributes work in harmony. God’s goodness and severity are not two opposing attributes. The truth is that God’s severity is good. When Israel witnessed the severity of God ...the severity of God led them to repentance.

Exodus 34:1-8 - And the LORD said to Moses, “Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke. ...⁴ So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone.

⁵ 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.”

⁸ So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.

In the midst of God’s goodness and severity, what is our response?

QUESTIONS:

How do you better understand the glory of God through Ex. 32, 33, and part of 34?

How does this impact your life? How can you express the impact?

What can you share about God with others – even those who don’t know Him?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:

Reread the handout with your notes.

Continue writing in your journal.

Pray about sharing these truths with believers and non-believers.

Read week 6 handout when you receive it.