

Introduction:

- Exodus 33:17-19, we find one of the most preached passage in the OT. *"Show me your glory."* To which God answers, "I will show you my goodness." We do believe that God is good! But...how we arrive at that answer is critically important.
- We can all say, 'He is good.' We can sing, 'He is good.' We can think, 'He is good.' But, until we know He is good, we can't trust Him, won't trust Him, therefore we will not receive from Him. Israel had that problem and believers today still have that problem.
- So we are going to look at this passage and see what Moses saw in God's nature.
- When we see God's nature in the scriptures it is not merely for intellectual discussion. The Bible opens up our understanding to help us reverence God, trust God, and love & obey God.
- When God reveals Himself to Moses, it is to encourage and empower him to lead a stiff-necked people on into the Promised Land based on knowing that God would be with him and them.
- Before we get too far, I want to give us a definition of glory. Glory is God expressing Himself. Anytime you see an expression of God you are looking at His glory. "The definition we give to glory will determine where we encounter it." Paul Manwaring; What On Earth Is Glory?.
- Is 63:4 says, *"the whole earth is filled with His glory."* That statement demands an expectation that we see God's glory everywhere. Is 43:7 states glory is what we were made for. If I am made for glory then I am made to know glory and encounter glory.
- *"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."* (Habakkuk 2:14, ESV)
- *"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."* (2 Corinthians 4:6, ESV)
- The key to understanding the glory of God is knowing that His glory fills the earth. IE. If we don't know then we will be like Jacob... *"surely God is in this place and I did not know it!"*
- The Hebrew word for knowledge (Isa 2:14) is 'yada' an intimate, personal, experiential knowing. God intends for us to know Him.
- God's glory is the result of God expressing Himself. It is seen in the answers to these questions:
 - What is God like? Look at Jesus! Glory!
 - What does God say? He is revealed/expressed through His word. Glory!
 - What does God do? He is seen in what He does. Glory!
 - What did God create? Ro 1:20 He is clearly seen in what He created. Glory!
- The answer to these questions reveal the glory of God. Glory is the reflection of the nature of God! Darkness is a rejection of the glory. Romans exchanged glory for...images.

I. The Action Of God God is good, but how we arrive at that answer makes all the difference.

- A. God delivers Israel from Egypt. Our story starts with God delivering Israel from the hands of the Egyptians.
1. We get to Ex 19 where God invites Moses up onto the mountain and the people are warned not to even touch the Mountain.
 2. Moses makes at least three trips up the mountain to bring instruction and information of God's standards and plans for them.
 3. Finally, Moses goes up for the law and is there for 40 days.
- B. God desires to kill the rebellious Israelites. Meanwhile, back at the base of the Mount Sinai, the people have talked Aaron into making a golden calf for them to worship. And he does! Not only that but he built an altar too! IE. Maybe this is why God did not want him to lead, when Moses was asking for someone else to lead.
1. Then we hear God say, 32:7, *"Go down for 'your people', whom 'you brought up' out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves."*
 2. They have turned aside quickly
 3. And they now worship and sacrifice to a gold calf.
 4. Process this: *"And the Lord said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 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.'"* (Exodus 32:9-10, ESV) Let me kill them and start over with you.
- C. God relents toward Israel. He changes His mind at the intercession of His friend (yada), Moses. Moses hits God with a series of questions:
1. Why does your wrath burn against your people? 32:11
 2. Why should the Egyptians say, "He brought them out to kill them and wipe them from the face of the earth?"
 3. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel your servants. God relents/changes his course of action.
 4. I will just have 3000 killed by the sword and also a plague comes upon those who had sinned against God.
 5. God says to Moses, you go ahead and lead them into the land. I will send an angel 33:2; but I am not going. *"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."* (Exodus 33:3, ESV)
 6. Verse 4, the people mourned hearing that God was not going. IE. Now you remember who brought you out of Egypt.
- D. Moses knew God face to face as a man would know a friend. (yada) 33:11
1. Face to Face! Not since Adam maybe Enoch has man known God face to face.

2. Moses met the I AM at a burning bush. The phrase 'I am' means there is nothing external to God that defines Him! Everything that defines God comes from His inside in who He is!
 3. Moses had a boat load of miracles with God crushing Egyptian gods.
 4. Moses knew God like no one had experienced God in a long time.
 5. After all this he asks, "Show me your glory."
 6. Paul in 2 Cor 3:5-10 What Moses had was nothing – Compared to Christ!
"Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it." (2 Corinthians 3:10, ESV)
- E. Moses asked God lots of question:
1. He asked for signs
 2. He asked that someone else speak.
 3. He asked questions going up the mountain and coming down.
 4. He even asked God to change His mind about wiping out the Israelites.
 5. All these questions built relationship with God. So much so God said, *'... "I know you by name, and **you have also found favor in my sight.**"'* (Exodus 33:12, ESV)
 - a) Moses found grace... not the Israelites!
 - b) God is telling Moses, 'I am going with you...not them.'
- F. That is the situation in which we hear and see the audacity of Moses...

II. The Audacity of Moses

- A. If I have favor, show me your ways! *"Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. **Consider too that this nation is your people.**"* (Exodus 33:13, ESV)
1. Favor - The verb *hānan* depicts a heartfelt response by someone who has something to give to one who has a need. It is a positive action from a superior to an inferior who does not deserve it. Yamauchi, E. (1999). [694 הָנַן](#). In R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 302). Moody Press.
 2. Show me your ways, that I may know you and find favor in your sight.
 3. And oh, *'consider this nation is your people.'* The audacity of Moses!
- B. Exodus 33:2,12 I am not happy going with an angel I do not know! If you are not going then we are not going. The audacity of Moses!
1. How shall I know if I have found favor in your sight if you do not go with us?
 2. Moses ask another question: vs 16 Is it not that you are with us that makes us a distinct people on the face of the earth?
 3. God in vs 17 says I will go, I will do for you what I have said, I KNOW YOU BY NAME!
- C. One last thing God, (THE AUDACITY OF MOSES) show me your glory.

1. What is our definition of glory? It is God expressing himself.
2. Most Christians at this point are looking for gold dust, falling feathers, wind, tongue of fire, goose bump...glory. With everything Moses has experienced with God, Why is he asking? Show me your glory. HE HAS SEEN MORE GLORY THAN ANY ONE MAN DESERVES!
3. Show me, give me proof that you will really be gracious to this stiff-necked rebellious people! The audacity of Moses!

III. The Unveiling Of Goodness

- A. *"The request to see God's glory should be understood in this context as a desire to have God confirm his astonishing willingness to show his favor to a stiff-necked, idolatrous people (33:16-17). The confirmation is to consist in a revelation of that glory which is the ground or source of such great mercy."* John Piper.
- B. God's shocking answer! ***"And he said, 'I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.'"*** (Exodus 33:19, ESV)
 1. I will make my goodness pass before you! Who is God? HE IS GOOD! Because His holy presence can, and will, accompany a stiff-necked people to the promised land!
 - a) He is good because only God can bridge the breaking of covenant (gold calf) and restoration of Covenant chapter 34.
 - b) Moses intercession begins in chapter 32 and climaxes in 34:9-10.
 - c) The theme is the Presence! (Accompanying Presence) ties together disobedience on one side and forgiveness on the other.
 2. I will proclaim my name.
 - a) Yahweh! The unutterable name I will proclaim before you! Exodus 34:5-7
 - b) Moses has spoken as a friend to God...on behalf of God's people!
 3. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious.
- C. God's glory lies in His **goodness**. When Moses saw the glory of God, His first understanding was that God was good. When Moses now sees the ways of God, he see that GOD IS GOOD!!! If we don't know that God is good, we don't know much about Him at all. If we don't know God is good we cant trust Him; won't trust Him, or receive from Him.
- D. God can be and is gracious between these two spheres. *"Rather the request to see God's glory should be understood in this context as a desire to have God confirm his astonishing willingness to show his favor to a stiff-necked, idolatrous people (33:16-17). The confirmation is to consist in a revelation of that glory which is the ground or source of such great mercy."* John Piper.

1. "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!" (1 Chronicles 16:34, ESV)
 2. "Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, (NOT MY SINS) for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!" (Psalm 25:7, ESV)
 3. Ps 23 '*Surely goodness and mercy follow me.*'
- E. Moses asks to see the glory and God gives him a view of His goodness! Not justice, not power, not wrath....His Goodness!
1. If the glory is the expression of God then God's goodness is His most grand expression/revelation/glory! He is Savior, Healer, Deliverer, Provider, Protector, Sanctifier, all because He is good!
 2. This was Moses sign! That a Good God, Holy God could and would lead an undeserving people into the Land of Promises! Yes! He is good! Maybe this is why God is so angry with them when they would not cross into the promised land...they had the revelation of His goodness but would not move in faith!
 3. What else could God show Moses?...His badness?
 4. "In vivid pictorial language, the passage says that man may see only where God has passed by (verses 22, 23) and so know him by his past doings and acts. For a full revelation of what God is like, man must wait until Jesus Christ (John 14:9). Cole, R. A. (1973). *Exodus: an introduction and commentary* (Vol. 2, p. 235). InterVarsity Press.
 5. This goodness can only take place in a covenant context. 34:64-7 God's nature is revealed in His goodness. Hesed!
 6. 34:9 Go with us!
 - a) Moses glory does not even compare to the glory of Christ!
 - b) That is what we have!

Conclusion:

- "Moses' audacious request was an invitation for us to ask for greater revelation of the Glory of God, for 'yada' encounters with His goodness." Paul Manwaring; What Is Glory?.
- **** Our faith will only explore areas where we believe God is good.****Bill Johnson
- God's nature is revealed in His goodness. Hesed!

"For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you." (Psalm 86:5, ESV) "The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made." (Psalm 145:9, ESV) "They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness." (Psalm 145:7, ESV)