

Gleanings of Grace

Exodus 33 and 34:1-12

Lesson 2

In response to Israel's great sin of Exodus 32, God told Moses to go up from there to the land He promised them. Moses boldly declared that he did not want to go anywhere if God's presence did not go with them. The verses of this lesson expose the sweet relationship of Moses and God. May you be inspired to enjoy friendship with God and to *see His glory* as Moses did. For He too calls you friend and longs to show Himself to you.

OBSERVATION: Read Exodus 33

1. Read Exodus 33 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Moses*.

Key Words: *God (LORD), Moses*, and any references to the people of Israel.
3. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* are used five times in Exodus 33. Mark the words. Choose one instance of their use and record what is being contrasted.
4. Scan the chapter and highlight or underline the phrases that stand out to you. List some of them.

Background:

1. Exodus 33 is preceded by the chapter which recounts Israel tiring of waiting for Moses to come down from Mount Sinai. Using their gold jewelry, they made a calf and worshiped it. Using Exodus 32:8, what did the LORD say the people had done?
 - a. What adjective did He use to describe their sin in verses 21 and 31.
 - 1.) Why do you think their sin was *great*?
2. How did God describe the people in Exodus 32:9?
 - a. Using your own words, describe someone who is *stiff-necked*.

Read Exodus 33:1-6

1. God's first judgment was to send a plague among the people. We find His second judgment in the first verses of chapter 33. What did God:
 - tell the people to do (verses 1,3)
 - say He would do (verse 2)
 - say He would not do (verse 3 – the second part of His judgment)
2. Why did God say *I will not go up in your midst?* (verses 3,5)
 - a. God repeated the description of them that He used in Exodus 32. How would you personally describe God's reaction to their sin?
3. According to verse 4, how did the people respond *when they heard this bad news?*
4. Using verse 5, describe the power of God.
 - a. Describe your personal perception of the power of God.

5. The people had become impatient. Moses was taking too long to bring God's message to them. What are some examples in our own lives when we must wait on the Lord to answer us?
 - a. What are some wrong reactions we can have?
 - b. What reactions would be pleasing to God?

Read Exodus 33:7-11

1. We find God's third judgment in this section of Exodus 33. God had Moses move *his tent and pitch it outside the camp*. What was this *tent* called?
 - a. What *came to pass*? (verses 7-9)
2. What happened when the people saw the *pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door*? (verse 10)
3. According to Exodus 33:11, how did God *speak to Moses*?
 - a. This was described as being *as a man speaks to his friend*. What are some ways *a man speaks to his friend*?
 - 1.) Record the words of Psalm 103:7.
 - a.) How is this an action of a friend?
 - 2.) Moses is not alone in receiving God's revelations. God's people, the children of Israel, are also mentioned. What is your response when you consider that God *makes known His ways to you*?

Read Exodus 33:12-23

1. God told Moses that he had *found grace in His sight* (verse 12). Using verse 13, what did Moses ask of God?
 - a. Why are these requests good for a leader to seek?
 - b. Note David's request in Psalm 25:4,5. What can we learn from his prayer?
2. Soak in God's response to Moses as you write the words of Exodus 33:14.
 - a. This promise has been extended to each of God's children. Record the promises from:
Matthew 28:20

Matthew 11:28
 - 1.) Why are these promises a treasure to you?
3. The promise of God's *presence* was crucial to Moses. He claimed that he did not want to move anywhere if God would not be with them. What difference does God's presence make in your life?
4. Read Exodus 33:16 and express Moses' desire.
5. Many might be satisfied with knowing God's friendship. Moses was not. What did Moses want God to do? (verse 18)
 - a. Using verses 19-23 summarize God's reply to Moses.

OBSERVATION: Read Exodus 34:1-12

1. Read Exodus 34:1-9 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God* and *Moses*.

Key Words: *God (LORD/Lord), Moses,* and any references to the people of Israel
3. Scan Exodus 34:1-12 and highlight or underline the phrases that stand out to you. List some of them.

Read Exodus 34:1-12

1. In his anger, when he saw the children of Israel worshipping the golden calf and committing other sins, Moses *cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them* (Exodus 32:19b). God needed to write His law on new tablets. What did He tell Moses to do? Exodus 34:1,2
2. Moses complied with God's instructions and beginning with verse 5, God complied with Moses' request to *see His glory*. Using verse 5, describe what God did.
 - a. Using verses 6,7 list the attributes God chose to reveal Himself.

- 1.) Chose three of the words above and define them as they relate to God's character.

3. What was Moses' response?

a. What was your response as you read and defined the words about God?

4. Moses continued to seek the assurance that God would *go among them*. Using verses 10-12 what did God:

Promise:

Command the people:

Warn the people:

a. Why are these commands and warnings important to heed?

REVIEW: Exodus 33 and 34:1-12

1. Describe how you perceive:

God's relationship with Moses

Moses' relationship with God

2. How have you been encouraged through this lesson to want to *see God's glory*?

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord,
are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory,
just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

- 2 Corinthians 3:18

Observation Worksheet

Exodus 33

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.'² And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.³ Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."⁴ And when the people heard this bad news, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments.⁵ For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the children of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people. I could come up into your midst in one moment and consume you. Now therefore, take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do to you.'"⁶ So the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by Mount Horeb.⁷ Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the LORD went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp.⁸ So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle.⁹ And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses.¹⁰ All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door.¹¹ 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. 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 in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation *is* Your people."¹⁴ And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."¹⁵ Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.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."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 said, "Please, show me Your glory."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."

Exodus 34:1-12

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. ² So be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain. ³ And no man shall come up with you, and let no man be seen throughout all the mountain; let neither flocks nor herds feed before that mountain." 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. ⁹ Then he said, "If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we are a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance." ¹⁰ And He said: "Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you. ¹¹ Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. ¹² Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst.