



11/22/24

*I was thinking about how I want to THINK differently... My natural tendency is to walk into a room and hope that people think well of me, even that I'm thin and pretty. I had started to pray, "Lord, please change my heart so that when I walk into a room my concern is more that people will think I look like Jesus." And then it hit me! What I REALLY need to be focusing on when I walk into a room is, "Who can I show the love of Jesus and pursue peace with in the room? How can I glorify God in this place?" The focus is not on me at all! That's the culture of heaven. That's what God wants to do in our lives. This week on the Chosen and Cherished podcast, I talk about what it means to live with a view toward heaven... to let the culture of heaven be our pursuit here on earth. I'm so thankful God wants us to experience that culture now... and be immersed in it forever! If you'd like to hear the podcast, just click on the link! <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>*

*Blessings,*

*Jonna*

*Exodus 33:12-21*

*Leading up to this passage, in chapter 32, Moses had been on the mountain with God, and the people thought he took too long, so they had Aaron make them a golden calf to worship!!! "And he (Aaron) received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' (DISGUSTING!!!) When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow shall be a feast to the Lord.' (Uhhhh... I don't think they're feasting to the Lord, Aaron. Don't fool yourself so that you can justify what you just did.) And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings (TO A GOLD BABY COW). And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play."*

*That is sick! And yet... how often have I put other things before God in my heart, even giving other things the credit that only God deserves? Yikes!*

*God told Moses that He would still allow the Israelites to go into the Promised Land, but an angel would take them... not Him. In Exodus 33:1-3 God said, "Depart; go up from here, you and*

*the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your offspring I will give it.' I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 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."*

*The people and Moses were brokenhearted. Isn't it amazing how I can feel so justified in my sin and rationalize why I deserve it UNTIL I'm faced with what I've done? O Lord, help me to recognize the destruction of sin BEFORE I do it!!! Help me to cling to You in obedience. What You have for me is the Forever Promised Land! Sin is a lie. It promises freedom and brings destruction.*

*In vs. 12-21, Moses had a conversation with God... "Lord, You've told me to lead these people to a location You haven't clarified. You've told me that You've called me by name for this mission. You told me that I've found favor in Your sight! If that's true, show me now Your ways... so that I can know You and find favor in Your sight."*

*Moses knew what he needed. He needed to know the Lord better. He needed to know His ways. He knew that knowing the Lord is the most important thing in life. How do we know the Lord like that? It starts by knowing His ways. Isaiah 55:8-9 says that "His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts then our thoughts." Psalm 25:8-9 says, "Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way." So we NEED Him to lead us and teach us... and as He does, we experience a deeper relationship with Him.*

*This is what Moses asked for... but he also wanted to make sure that God understood that he was leading these people to the Promised Land FOR GOD. He said, "Keep in mind. These are YOUR people."*

*What was God's answer? "My presence WILL go with you, and I will give you rest." Wow. God is so merciful. Moses' faith was tested. Did he really believe he needed God to be with them? Absolutely. God saw his faith and said, "Don't worry. I'll be with you the whole time." That is mercy. These people tried to worship other gods after God Himself had rescued them from slavery. And this wouldn't be the last time they dishonored God like this.*

*It wasn't enough for Moses to hear God say it once. He was freaking out. They were in the middle of nowhere and Moses didn't just want the presence of an angel. He wanted God Himself. He wanted to make sure God understood the situation. Hahaha... as if God needed his wisdom. I can laugh at Moses about this, but I have to laugh at myself, too. How many times have I thought God needed my counsel??? O Lord, thank You for Your patience and mercy!!!*

*Moses said, "Don't even bother bringing us up from this place if You're not going with us. We'll be destroyed without You. How will anyone believe that I and Your people have found favor with You if You're not with us? The only thing that makes us distinct from everyone else is that we're*

*with YOU!”*

*Wow. That’s so true for all believers. None of us have any reason to be proud in ourselves. I am not better than someone who doesn’t know Jesus. The only difference between us is that I have received the free gift of salvation and up to this point, they have rejected it. Moses understood that. I pray that I will grasp that completely.*

*God is so good! He didn’t say, “Look, Moses. I told you once and now you’ve asked Me again... no, demanded from Me what you have no right to demand!” That is NOT what He said. God graciously said, “I will do exactly what you just said because you HAVE found favor in My sight and I HAVE called you by name.”*

*What favor did Moses “earn” with God? If I look back at his life, I see no reason. That’s because the Hebrew word for “favor” is “chen” which has the same meaning as its Greek word in the New Testament, “charis...” CHARITY. Moses didn’t EARN this favor. He didn’t even know to call God by name until God called HIM by name from a burning bush. God is a God of charity... who loves His people, not because of what we DO, but simply because that is who HE IS.*

*I think Moses probably knew he didn’t deserve this favor, and he certainly knew the Israelites who had just bowed down to a piece of gold in the shape of a baby cow didn’t deserve this favor. So what else is there to say? “Please show me YOUR glory.” I am so in awe of who You are and what You’re doing... that I can have rest BECAUSE You will not take Your presence from us. Please show me Your glory... Your splendor... the weight of Your honor and majesty.*

*What would God do to show Moses His glory? Would He bring massive fire to consume the enemy? Would He light up the sky with angels? What would He do??? This is what He did to show Moses His glory... He said, “I will make My GOODNESS pass before You. I will proclaim My personal name, Yahweh, before you. I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I show mercy.”*

*The first thing God says about His glory is that it is His goodness... His kindness and benevolence toward us!!! And then He continued to explain it with His personal name... that we can KNOW Him by name just as He has called us by name. And then His grace... His favor to us as undeserving people. Nothing that God gives us is done because He owes us or because we have earned it. It is all because He just wants to lavish us with grace. And He described His glory as His mercy. The very fact that Moses could request anything from the Lord is because God is merciful... not bringing the punishment on us that we deserve. So Moses was asking God to show him His goodness, His personal name in relationship, His grace, and His mercy.*

*I can only imagine what experiencing this glory will be like in heaven because God told Moses, “If you see My face, you’ll die. I’ll put you on a rock near me, and I’ll face you toward the cleft of the rock so that you can’t see My face.” Right now on this earth, we experience God’s glory with veiled faces. Psalm 19:1 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God.” Someday, when our earthly, perishing bodies are exchanged for our new glorious bodies, we will get to see God’s*

*goodness, face, grace, and mercy in ALL of His glory!*

*Until then, my prayer is that I will not get focused on the things of earth, creating golden calves that call for my attention... but I will seek to KNOW and EXPERIENCE God's loving, faithful, good ways... and I will seek to EXPERIENCE more and more of His goodness, His personal name that is now even more personal... Abba, Father... that I will experience and celebrate more and more of His grace lavished on me, and that I will live in humble, surrendered, confident gratitude for His mercy. His presence is not only WITH me, but it is IN me... sealed with the Holy Spirit... the more I pursue that and believe it, the more I can rest in Him. O Lord, please make it so in me. Amen.*