

Friday, February 26, 2016

**Relented**

Exodus 31-32

*Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.*

Exodus 32:14

The people have misunderstood God. They have forgotten Him. They have attributed His work of rescue to the gold He provided them through the Egyptians. They got restless waiting for His reply. He heard what they were doing. He saw their sin. His anger burned and He was ready to destroy them. God would have no problem replacing them. But Moses sought the favor of the LORD. In so doing, he revealed the heart that God loves. A heart of submission that knows the word of the LORD. A heart that rests in the promises of God. God surely did not need Moses to remind Him of the promises He had made. This was more for what Moses would teach and what would be taught ever since—that God relents. God relenting is not Him changing His mind. Rather, it is God's consistent response, according to His changeless nature, to a change in conduct. I thank God that I do not need to remind Him of the promises He has made, but I do need to remind myself. If I am to stand on the promises He has made, I must know them. I must read and know what He has said so that when times of trial come, I can talk with Him, reminding myself of the promises He has made and rehearsing His faithfulness to all the generations that preceded me.

*Dear LORD, thank You that You are a God who relents and does not give me what I so surely deserve. Thank You that You have given me Your promises to hold me fast. Amen*

Saturday, February 27, 2016

**Worship**

Exodus 33-34

*Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. "O Lord, if I have found favor in your eyes. " he said, " then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance."*

Exodus 34:9

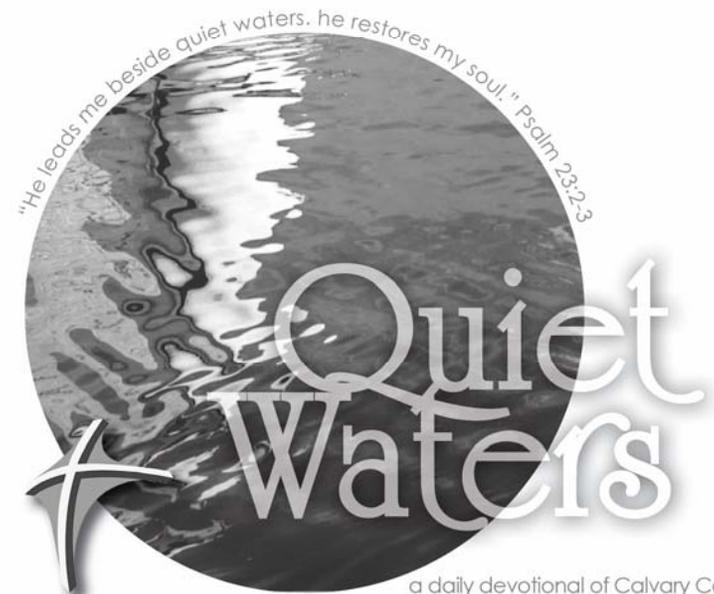
Moses has seen the glory of the LORD. He has seen His goodness. He has been in the very presence of the Almighty. He has told Moses that He is pleased with him and that He knows Him by name. I try to contemplate this scene. I try to imagine it, because I want the same thing Moses wanted. I want to see the glory of the Lord. I want it to be so clear that I have been in His presence that my face radiates His goodness. In this verse today, I see that for me to be in the presence of the LORD, I must realize that I do not go there alone. I go there making intercession, not only for myself but for others. I don't go before Him to accuse my brothers and sisters, I go there to plead for them, knowing that when they hurt, we all hurt. When there is sin in any part of our camp, the presence of the LORD is diminished.

*O Lord, if I have found favor in Your eyes, then please hear my prayer. I cry out for those who claim Your name. Please forgive our sin. We are a prideful and self-centered people, just as stiff-necked, if not more so. Please Lord, go with us. Do not leave us alone. Let us radiate Your glory. Amen*



Pastor Chuck Cervenka

February 22-27, 2016



a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, February 22, 2016

**Snare**

Exodus 23-24

*“Do not let them live in your land, or they will cause you to sin against me, because the worship of their gods will certainly be a snare to you.”* Exodus 23:33

God is letting the nation know that He is preparing a way and a place for them and that there are people in the land they are going to that will lead them away from Him. He tells them how important it will be for the Israelites to not let these people live with them. If they do, they will sin. Just having the people around them will cause them to sin. Not maybe. Will. It is certain. God even says, “certainly.” This will be hard for many reasons. It will require work to move these people out. It will seem unfair. It would seem easier and would make more sense to just not pay attention to them. But also, what those people were worshiping would seem attractive. It would be much easier to just join in. It would also be more sinfully pleasant to join in and worship their gods.

This same thing can so easily happen to me. Instead of going through the hard work to get false gods out of my life and home, I convince myself that I can just live safely with those things around. Then I get sucked into worshiping those things. I need to apply this verse to every aspect of my life. I can't let any false influence have any type of priority over my life. I must protect myself so that I will not sin against God, convincing myself it is ok.

*Dear LORD, fight with me—go ahead of me to rid my life of any such influences that I may have. Please overwhelm me with You and Your presence alone. Amen*

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

**Exactly**

Exodus 25-26

*“Then, have them make this sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.”*

Exodus 25:8-9

God is getting ready to dwell among His people. This is such an amazing passage in the Bible. God is telling Moses how to go about building a tabernacle in which God will choose to dwell among the Israelites. God tells Moses how to construct this tent. It will be funded by people who are prompted to give. Special things will be given sacrificially for the tabernacle to be built. Those special things will be used to build according to the Tenant's specifications. God is clear that the place where He will choose to dwell must be built exactly the way He has designed—right down to the smallest detail. This helps me consider how I am paying attention to where God has chosen to dwell now. God has come to dwell in me! I have given my life to Him and He has come to live in me. He abides in me. There are so many details He has given me of what He has designed for His dwelling place to be. I am a temple of God. As such, I must radiate all that God is—holiness, humility, love, kindness, goodness, gentleness, submission, justice, joy, passion for the lost, generosity, selflessness, meekness, mercy, peace, and so many other characteristics that He is bringing to life in me.

*Dear Lord, help me have Your dwelling place exactly the way that You have designed it, so that You can radiate out of my life and display Yourself to the world. Amen.*

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

**Shown**

Exodus 27-28

*“Make the altar hollow, out of boards. It is to be made just as you were shown on the mountain.”* Exodus 27:8

Moses had a very unique relationship with God. God showed things to Moses that He had never before shown to anyone. There is yet much, much more for Moses to see. As I read these chapters, I consider that God is not only describing how to build this tabernacle, He is also revealing how Aaron is supposed to dress. With great detail, God reveals the importance of dignity as Aaron comes into His presence. This was not to be taken lightly (which becomes very clear for Aaron's sons later). These words I am reading are the words that God spoke to Moses.

People long for God to talk to them like that. I love that God does—in the Bible! I am reading the words of God. I don't need someone to tell me what they think God is saying. I don't need someone to put words in God's mouth, to put what God says in their own words. God tells me what He is saying. I may need some explanation of what His word says, because I may not always understand exactly what I am reading or exactly why He is saying the things He is saying, but nevertheless, I just love “listening” to Him talk as I read.

*O my Lord, thank You so much for giving me Your Word. The Bible is so very sweet and so very special, as within it You show me the way You have designed for me. Help me to love Your Word and to read it often, listening to You speak to me. Amen.*

Thursday, February 25, 2016

**Consecrate**

Exodus 29-30

*“This is what you are to do to consecrate them, so they may serve me as priests: Take a young bull and two rams without defect.”* Exodus 29:1

It was extremely important for the priests to be consecrated—set apart—for the service they would be doing. This was a high and holy calling. They would be standing between God and the people. They needed to be as cleansed as possible. This would require sacrifices and rituals in order to enter the presence of the LORD in His tabernacle. They were called to a sacred duty and so all that was about them was to be sacred.

As I read this, I can't help but think of my Great High Priest. Jesus has made the sacrifice and is the Priest over the house of God. He is the one who made the sacrifice that would cover my sin debt. I can enter the presence of God. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain. And yet, what I can't miss in this passage is the sacredness that is needed to come into the presence of the LORD. Yes, Jesus has made it possible for me to be called a child of God, but as I enter the throne room, as I enter the most Holy of Holies, I must remind myself that I am standing on holy ground in the presence of Holy God. I must not be flippant about this. I dare not come as I am once I realize who He is.

*Dear LORD, set me apart for Your service. Please LORD, help me know that while I come to You as I am, in a way, I also must come in awe and reverence. Break the spirit in me that feels I deserve to be in Your presence in a way that lacks the respect You deserve. Amen.*