

"Prayer" Part 2

Mount of Olives | July 27, 2025 | Exodus 33:7-11a

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Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, over and over we have experienced the futility of seeking fulfillment by pursuing our own self-interest in our lives. The truth is, we often don't know what is best for us. Throughout the ages, people have found that our best laid plans often go awry. Help us once again to remember that we don't make the best lords of our lives. Help us to understand that we can rely on Your sovereignty and trust in You in all circumstances. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 33:7-11a

Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tent. Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend.

Message Notes

Exodus 25:8-9

And have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them. In accordance with all that I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

Exodus 33:11

Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then he would return to the camp; but his young assistant, Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the tent.

Deuteronomy 16:16-17

Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose: at the festival of unleavened bread, at the festival of weeks, and at the festival of booths. They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed; all shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you.

Psalms 100:4

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

Psalm 134:1-3

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, who stand by night in the house of the Lord! Lift up your hands to the holy place, and bless the Lord. May the Lord, maker of heaven and earth, bless you from Zion.

Isaiah 59:1-2

See, the Lord's hand is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. Rather, your iniquities have been barriers between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Study Questions – Read Exodus 33:7-11

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. If you could meet with God face-to-face, what would you ask him and why?
2. When you pray, where do you most often like to pray? Is there a place to pray that is more meaningful to you? If so, where and why?

Based on Exodus 33:7-11, answer the following questions:

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read **Exodus 33:7-11**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. What was the purpose of the Tent Meeting, and why was it set up outside the camp?
2. How did the people respond when Moses entered the tent? What might that reveal about their view of God or Moses?
3. What does verse 11 tell us about the nature of Moses' relationship with God?
4. Who is Joshua in this passage, and what does his staying behind in the tent suggest?
5. Why do you think God chose to speak to Moses "face to face, as one speaks to a friend"? What does that say about Moses' character or role?
6. What might the placement of the Tent "outside the camp" symbolize in terms of Israel's spiritual condition at the time?
7. How does this passage contrast with how God related to the rest of the Israelites?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. What can we learn from Moses' relationship with God about pursuing intimacy with Him today?
2. How might Joshua's example of remaining in the tent challenge us in our spiritual lives?
3. What "tent of meeting" practices could we develop in our own lives to draw closer to God?