

Sermon Reflections

Aren't You Coming? (Exodus 33)

We are nowhere without the grace – the underserved love – of God in our lives. Be humbled by this; but be hopeful too.

Without God's Grace...

1. You Can't Be Near His Holiness (vv. 1-6)

- List the features/benefits of the place where God tells them to go? What is the catch? (i.e. who will they be without?)
- As believers we are Heaven bound. List some of the wonderful blessings we will experience there. Why do you suspect that many forget that the best thing about Heaven is being with Christ?
- What is God's reason for not joining them (v6)? Define "stiff-necked" in your own terms (consider the word picture described in Psalms 32:9). List some qualities of "stiff-necked" people.
- How did the people respond to their sin? Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. Juxtapose "godly grief", with "worldly grief". How are they different? How is one sometimes disguised as the other? Do you think the grief expressed by the Israelites in this passage signifies genuine repentance? Why or why not?

2. You Can't Have God's Favor (vv. 7-14)

- What is the purpose of the "tent of meeting" described in vv. 7-11.
- Describe what Moses was asking for in your own words? What does Moses mean when he prays "show me your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight."?
- How does God's response reflect His graciousness?
- Read Ephesians 2:4-9. What is God's favor upon us, as believers, based on? List some of the resultant benefits we receive because of the grace He provides.

3. You Can't Enjoy His Presence. (vv. 15-17)

- God just told Moses in v14 "My presence will go with you". Why then do you think Moses states in v15 "if your presence will not go with me"? (Hint: see NKJV version and notice "me" vs "us".)
- If God is holy and cannot tolerate sin (Hab 1:13); how can He grant Moses His request and promise to be with these sinful, stiff-necked people?
- How do we, as believers, enjoy His presence today? How does the indwelling of the Holy Spirit - 1) make us acceptable to God; 2) affect our day to day living; and 3) provide us with the capability of genuine godly repentance when we fail? (Provide supporting Scriptures)

4. You Can't Understand His Glory. (vv. 18-23)

- Read Exodus 34:5-7. How does God reveal His glory to Moses? What are the first two perfections God mentions about His character? Define each.
- List Scriptures that support this fact: Our relationship with God starts with His grace and is sustained by His grace.
- Sing the hymn: "Grace Greater Than Our Sin". Consider the truths mentioned in its lyrics. Pray that God would remind us of our dependence on Christ daily and humble us to the fact that we are saved by His Grace alone.