

Traveling With The Lord
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Exodus 33:13-16 (Moses says) Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, show me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation *is* thy people. 14 And he (God) said, My presence shall go *with thee*, and I will give thee rest. 15 And he (Moses) said unto him, If thy presence go not *with me*, carry us not up hence. 16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? *is it* not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that *are* upon the face of the earth.

This is a classic conversation between God and Moses about God's presence in our spiritual journey. It is classic in several senses. First, we find that Moses reveals his depth of understanding about spiritual things, especially grace, as he reasons with God about the journey that he is anticipating for himself and the children of Israel. Secondly, we discover in these words the depths of God's protective intent which is the essence of that grace, Third and last, we come face to face with the principle of separation as it pertains to the people of God. I want us to look at what this text has to say to us both as individuals and as a church in our travels of faith. I want us to be struck by the greatness of the relationship we have with our Lord and with the uniqueness of our position in the universe as chosen ones of the Lord.

- I. Grace seeks more favors from the Lord
- II. God confirms that he will give grace
- III. Faith acknowledges need for God and the uniqueness of the spiritual life

I. V. 13 - Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, show me now thy way **Recipients of Grace Seek More Favor From God**

- ❖ Recipients of grace want to know what God's way is (as an aside, the privilege and opportunity to learn about God is in fact, a favor from God)
 - People touched by God's grace recognize what favor the Lord has shown, and if they follow their stirred-up heart. They are like good beagles who have found a rabbit trail...nothing else matters to those beagles except to discover and follow that way the rabbit has taken!
 - This can have at least three focus areas for studying God's way:
 - First, the Lord Jesus Christ is God's way for fallen man to get back to God
 - Jesus put it plainly in **John 14:6** "...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
 - If people really are seeking to know God's way, tell them to start with Jesus Christ
 - ◆ The Greeks who came to Jerusalem to worship God (**John 12:20-21**)

followed the right path when they came to Philip and announced to him that they wanted to see Jesus!

- Secondly, to know Jesus Christ is to **discover the pattern** of the **behavior and the doings of God** - God's "way" (Didn't Jesus Christ say, "**I am the way?**")
- To know Jesus Christ is also to **discover the path for your life** - (remember that He said in John 10, "**I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**")
- ❖ The motive for our desire to know God's way is born of wanting to understand more of the depth of our relationship with divinity
 - Nothing deepens a human's relationship with God more than learning more about Jesus Christ and nothing incentivizes the believer more than to have a yearning to learn more about the Lord
 - Paul understood this clearly: **Php. 3:8-10** Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ, **9** And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: **10** That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;
 - Recipients of grace also understand that growth in the grace of God and knowledge of Him go hand in hand; knowledge of God puts us in a frame and in a spiritual state to be able to receive more favor from the Lord
 - **2Pet. 1:2** Grace and peace be multiplied unto you **through the knowledge** of God, and of Jesus our Lord,
 - **2Pet. 3:18** But **grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord** and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.

II. V. 14 And he (God) said, My presence shall go *with thee*, and I will give thee rest. **God Confirms That He Will Give Grace**

- ❖ Here God promises two things that are the sum of all we need to have, and be aware and convinced of the presence of, His sufficient grace
 - First, He says, "My presence shall go with thee..."
 - I've heard believers say, "God says it, and I believe it."
 - I believe that there were times when Moses would have had a hard time confirming that God was going with him, but I believe based on his testimony during the wilderness journey that he remained steadfast in believing this by faith.
 - We have to do it the same way. See **Mat. 28:20** "... **lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.**"
 - See also **John 14:18** **I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.**
 - Let us take by faith that Jesus Christ is with us, and that it is all of grace that He is

- Secondly, He says, "...I will give thee rest."
 - In Hebrews 4, scripture talks of two aspects of rest provided by the Lord; one is the rest from personal works both for obtaining salvation and for serving God; this resting includes abandoning works for salvation and not using human inventions (not sanctified by faith) for trying to serve the Lord.
 - the other is that eternal rest which is yet to come.
 - You might want to make a note that in Hebrews 4, all the verses where you find the word "rest," except verse 9, are talking about that first rest. Verse 9 is talking about that eternal rest
 - I want all of you to carefully read Hebrews 4, because I intend sometime in the near future to have a message on God's rest for His people.
- It is very pointed that Jesus Christ, "God with us" made the same two promises to His people: the first is found in **Mat. 28:20** (above); the second in **Mat. 11:29** "**Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.**"

III. Vv. 15-16 Faith acknowledges need for God and the uniqueness of the spiritual life

15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not *with me*, carry us not up hence. **16** For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? *is it* not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that *are* upon the face of the earth.

- ❖ By faith, believers and churches do not want to go where God is not accompanying
- ❖ God's presence with a people is proof to them and others that grace has been extended to them
- ❖ God's presence with His people is the power that sets them apart from the lost world