

Monday, 12 March 2018 Exodus 33:1-3

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up to the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I will send an angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way."

The LORD, God, the Almighty recognizes the awe-fulness of His holiness and His love for His people demands that He protect them from the destructive consequences of that holiness. Sin cannot exist in the presence of the Holy. He does not change, He is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Heb. 13:8). He is the LORD, God, the Almighty and to be feared; totally, completely, without reservation---feared. But God is love, (1 John 4:8, 16). In the modern mind, these are conflicting terms. However, think about atomic energy. It is fearsome when misapplied, but of great benefit when properly used.

Tuesday, 13 March 2018 Exodus 33:11-14

Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent. Moses said to the LORD, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' **Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight.** Consider too that this nation is your people." And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Look at these two phrases, "as a man speaks to his friend" and please show me your ways." To be open and transparent in my relationship with a colleague is both the ultimate mark of friendship and the proof of existence. Moses was asking the LORD, God, the Almighty to fully reveal Himself fully. Moses hungered for an intimate relationship with the LORD. Remember the frightened shepherd of Ex. 3:4-6? Now he is entering into an intense relationship with the LORD, God, the Almighty. He is entering into the fear of the LORD.

Wednesday, 14 March 2018 Exodus 33:15-17

And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?" And the LORD said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."

Some people speak of the colors that a piece of music evokes in them as they listen. Might that not be a good approach to gain a deeper comprehension of the fear of the LORD and how it affects our walk as disciples of Jesus Christ?

Yesterday's color was that of relationship, Monday mentioned awe, holiness and love; colors that need to be more fully explored. Here we find a presence that is recognizable to others to be an essential color.

The intensity of that color is recognized by the LORD knowing each of His people by name. I am not the last four digits of my Social Security number, but I am John Arthur Nunnikhoven, a unique individual in His sight.

Thursday, 15 March 2018 Exodus 33:18-23

Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

This is a color-packed passage. The glory of the LORD. The goodness of the LORD. The name of the LORD. The grace of the LORD. The mercy of the LORD. Each requires a deeper exploration.

However, one stands out and is worthy of note at this point. That is the concern of the LORD for the safety and protection of His people. He knows that Moses could not withstand full exposure to His Glory, it would instantly kill him. He knows that I cannot either. I wonder if that is not, at least part of the

reason, why that I see as through a glass dimly? 1
Corinthians 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Friday, 16 March 2018 Exodus 34:29
When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.

Here's the answer. Moses was talking with God, and his face reflected the glory of the LORD. The lesson to me is that the more time I spend talking to God, i.e., in prayer, the more my life will reflect the Romans 12:2 renewing of my mind. The proof of the pudding is my ability to recognize and willingness to obey the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Saturday, 17 March 2018 Matthew 17:1-3
And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. **And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.**

This passage is mind-blowing. Where are the other great saints of the Old Testament? David? Elisha? Enoch? Noah? What did the three of them talk about?
But the important point is that Moses was there, the pampered prince of Egypt, a murderer, a man whose anger could blow in an instant, was there to hear that magnificent pronouncement, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased, listen to Him."

Lord's Day, 18 March 2018 Psalm 119:43
And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in your rules.
My hope is in the Kingdom life. To be able to rely on You and Your word to guide me and provide the wisdom I need. O, Lord, That I would obey fully and without hesitation.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



March 12-18, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Philippians 4:23
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

LORD, may Your grace be the salt which flavors and enhances all our conversations and interactions with those in our Personal Mission Field. Our witness without grace is as food without salt, flat and lifeless. With the infusion of grace, our spirits become vibrant and life giving, fully empowered to lead others into the righteousness, peace and joy that is life in the Kingdom with You.

May it be so with each member of the [Congregation] this week and in the weeks to come. Amen

To fear or not to fear, that is the question.

The fear of the Lord, an expression that occurs many times in Scripture, 142 in the ESV in various forms, is not well understood in the Church today. For many, the phrase represents a weak and flabby description of an overly saccharine spiritual being of some sort. It certainly does not include the concept of the LORD, God the Almighty who spoke all things into being and who controls all things.

Join with me in examining the fear of the LORD and seeking an understanding of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now as guided by that fear.

Voices Together is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ. These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to: Pastor John Nunnikhoven, The Church at Prison, Inc. PO Box 8318, Essex Junction, VT 05452

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