

EXODUS 33-35

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Exodus chapter 33 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

Remember what the Lord said to Moses back in Exodus 19:4-6, after He delivered them from their bondage in Egypt. And these words that the Lord spoke to Moses he was to tell the children of Israel. This is what the Lord said, **“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”**

The Lord is calling for the children of Israel to follow Him, to obey His voice, to trust in Him. He has brought them out of Egypt and thus, He will lead them into the Promise Land!

How did the people respond to what the Lord told them?

We don’t have to guess because we are told what transpired in Exodus 19:7-8, **“So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. Then all the people answered together and said, ‘All that the LORD has spoken we will do.’ So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.”**

Everything sounds so good. They said they would follow the Lord or more specifically, **“All that the LORD has spoken we will do.”**

But that did not last long, and we saw last time in our study that Israel sinned before the Lord. They broke the covenant that they made with the Lord, the one that they said that they would keep.

What happened?

Remember that Moses was up on Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights getting the Law of God, how to build the Tabernacle.

And while he was up there the people became restless and convinced Aaron to make them an idol to worship the Lord by, and he made for them a golden calf!

Keep in mind that they were not worshiping another god, but they wanted to worship the Lord using an image, which God forbid them to do. God is not some image; He is the Living God.

And when you start to disobey the Lord, it will continue to be a downward trend and that is what we see with the children of Israel.

You see, the worship of this golden calf degenerated into a drunken orgy and God told Moses to go down from the mountain because He was going to wipe out the children of Israel and start all over with Moses.

And as we saw, Moses to interceded for the people, something I believe God wanted Moses to do and He relented from destroying them.

In this rebellion, with the establishment of the Law, 3,000 people died in their sin and only the tribe of Levi stood alongside Moses and really, they were standing with the Lord to fight against this sin.

Interestingly enough, on the Day of Pentecost, 3,000 lives were saved, added to the church as the Spirit of God was poured out.

It is as the Scriptures tell us; the Law brings forth death while the Spirit brings forth life!

That is what Paul said in II Corinthians 3:4-6, **“And we have such trust through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”**

The Old Covenant, the Law we could never keep – *NEVER!*

Thus, the Law condemned us to death because we are sinners! We are not sufficient to keep the Law and the reality is, the Law was instituted to show us that we are sinners. The Law is a mirror that we look into, and it exposes our faults.

But the New Covenant is not based upon our faithfulness to keep the Law, it is based upon the finished work of Christ upon the cross of Calvary and it gives to us life, everlasting life. Something we could never obtain by being good enough. We can only obtain this everlasting life through the perfect sacrifice of Christ on the cross of Calvary!

The Law kills and the Spirit gives us life!

Tonight, in our study, we will see the repentance and restoration of the children of Israel.

With that as our background, let's begin reading in Exodus chapter 33, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word!

EXODUS 33

VERSES 1-3

As you read this you may be thinking, ***“This is great. God is going to bring them to the Promise Land. He is going to drive out their enemies.”***

Yes, that is what it says, but it also says that He will not go with them but *an* Angel He will send. In fact, because of their sin God says that He doesn't want to get too close to them because they deserve His judgment. He will wipe them out!

For many, that would be fine. Give me money, a good job, lots of toys to play with, health and so on. I want the stuff not the Savior.

Let me be clear on this. You will never be satisfied apart from the Lord being with you!

Look at the people that have everything and they are depressed, they are not happy, they are always looking for more because things won't satisfy, but the Lord is the One in which we find true satisfaction!

David said in Psalm 27:4, **“One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His temple.”**

You see, what will it profit you if you gain the whole world and yet lose your soul? (Matthew 16:26) Absolutely nothing. Like I have said, true satisfaction is only found in the Lord!

One writer put it like this,

This was a challenge to Moses and the nation as a whole. God told them they could have the Promised Land, but He would not remain with them in a close, personal way. If they were satisfied with that arrangement, it would prove they only loved God's blessings and not God Himself. If they challenged God – pleading with Him for His presence, not only His blessings – it would show a genuine heart for God Himself. This was the first step towards spiritual restoration and revival in Israel.

I think that is the idea here because as we read on, we will see Moses tell the Lord that if He is not going with them, then they are not going to go! (Exodus 33:15)

Also, in Psalm 26:8 we are told, **“Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house, And the place where Your glory dwells.”**

Again, may we be satisfied in the Lord for if we are, nothing else will matter or rob us of that joy!

Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones put it like this; *“To be given every other blessing is of no value if God is not with you. What is the value of Canaan? What is the value of milk and honey? What is the value of having possessions, if God was not with them? They saw that the realization of the presence of God, having this fellowship and company, was infinitely more important than everything else.”*

That is so important for us to understand. Apart from the Lord we have nothing!

VERSES 4-6

This is important for us to understand. That true repentance leads to action, not just empty words like *“I’m sorry”* and then the person goes and does it over and over again. You see, there is no change in their actions and thus, empty words.

But that is not what we see with the children of Israel here! Their words and their actions matched up. You see, they were not satisfied with the possessions they had. They wanted the Lord! So instead of decorating their flesh, they brought their heart before God.

But you can harden your heart towards God as Paul tells us in I Timothy 4:2, **“... having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.”**

In other words, they can't feel any more. Their conscience is seared and scared and insensitive to the things of God. And the more you harden yourself to God the more you are searing your conscience!

Also, we see once again the Lord calling them "**a stiff-necked people**" and the idea here is that of an ox or donkey resisting its owner, making its neck stiff so as not to obey where its master wants it to go!

I think that is what the Lord had in mind in Psalm 32:8-9. Here we see God speak of how He wants to direct their lives and ours.

He said, "**I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.**"

God does not want to inflict pain in our lives so that He can direct us, He wants to guide us as we look to Him.

How do we look to Him?

Through His Word opened up to us by His Spirit and He will guide us!

And like I have said, we see them strip themselves of their jewelry. And the idea here is that this seems to be the first step toward revival among God's people.

What do I mean by that?

I mean that we are stripping away the external riches (the idolatry of materialism) to focus on getting our hearts right with the Lord.

Too often Christians dress up the flesh to make themselves look good but in reality, they are in sin and need to bring their heart before God in repentance as the children of Israel did!

VERSES 7-11

This Tent of Meeting was not the Tabernacle because the Tabernacle was not yet built. But it was a place where God spoke to Moses, and do you see where the people stood?

They were at a distance as this Tent of Meeting was outside the camp, but why?

Because their sin had separated them from God, it kept them at a distance from God. And yet, they did have a heart for God.

I believe this is why God instructed Moses to build this Tent of Meeting, to see who was really interested in drawing close to God.

I am sure that there were some in the camp that were not interested, but for the most part, the children of Israel saw their sin and desired that relationship with God.

And this is true in our own lives. You see, when the Holy Spirit truly touches our hearts, we too will separate at any cost, no matter who will follow!

Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones gives us this insight as he wrote, *“When the Holy Spirit of God begins to deal with any one of us, there will be this separation. It will not be paraded; it will not be the Pharisees’ ‘I am holier than thou’ attitude. No, once a man begins to be burdened for the glory of God and the state of the Church, he immediately feels the call to consecration, he ‘goes out’ as it were.”*

Exactly.

Now, in Exodus 33:11 we are told, **“So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face . . .”**

How did Moses see God when we are told in I John 4:12, **“No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.”**

In fact, when we get to Exodus 33:20 the **LORD** said to Moses, **“. . . ‘You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.’”**

So what does this mean?

First of all, I do not believe this is an Old Testament appearance of Jesus Christ here, although some may think so.

We need to understand that this phrase, “**face to face**” does not mean Moses saw the literal face of God. The Scriptures speak against that as we have seen.

I think that God allowed Moses to have immediate access to and direct communication with Him.

I believe that is what is going on here.

Now, one more point here.

When God touches a person’s heart and they are on fire for the Lord, others will catch that fire as we see here.

Moses was on fire for the Lord and the camp of Israel caught that fire!

Who else was touched by God here?

We see that Joshua was and we are told that Joshua stayed in the tent; he did not want to leave the Lord!

As you look at the world and you look at Christians, there are three ways to look at them in their relationship with God.

The first are those who just can’t be bothered with God. They don’t want anything to do with Him, they don’t want to come to Him.

Then there are those who sporadically come to Him, visit Him, spend time with Him.

But, like Moses and Joshua there are those who come to Him and love Him so much that they never want to leave. They want to spend time with the Lord!

I don’t know about you, but I want to be like Moses and Joshua, don’t you!

VERSES 12-17

Moses once again intercedes for the people and is basically saying that if the Lord doesn't go with them, he doesn't want to go and don't bring the children of Israel.

But why would he say that?

Because, apart from the Lord going with them, they will have nothing.

In other words, "***We don't want an angel to go with us, we want YOU!***"

And the Lord says that He will go with them.

Now, did they deserve it?

Absolutely not but by God's grace that He is extending to them, He will go.

We see Moses asks for the grace of God some four times in these verses. He never asks for God's justice because they deserved death, they broke the Law of God. Thus, he falls upon the grace of God and so must we!

God's grace is unmerited favor, and we don't deserve anything but death from God, but by His grace we have everlasting life that is found in Jesus Christ!

Notice what David said in Psalm 32:5 after his sin with Bathsheba. We are told, "**I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**"

You see, first repentance and then restoration, not because David deserved it, but because of God's grace!

Remember what Jesus said in John 15:5, "**I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**"

That, in a sense, is what Moses is saying here. That apart from the Lord being with them they cannot do anything.

You see, it is only because of His grace that we can do anything and apart from Him we can do nothing that He will accept!

And let me add this. There are many Christians today who would rather just receive the blessings of God apart from that relationship with God. For Moses and the children of Israel, they did not want the blessings of God, they did not want to go into the Promise Land without the Lord because He meant more to them than all the blessings in the world. May we desire the Lord and not just seek His blessings!

That was Moses and we will see that even more in the next verse.

VERSE 18

Moses was not satisfied with just knowing God; he wanted that deep, personal relationship with Him. He wanted to see His glory, the **CHABOD** in Hebrew.

He wanted that which had substance, weight to it and not just fluff, like so many want today!

May we desire that close relationship with the Lord, to see His glory, that which has substance to it!

And here's the thing. As we hunger to know God more it will draw us closer to God. Moses talked with God, fellowshiped with God and he wanted more. He wasn't satisfied with all of that, he wanted to keep growing in this relationship.

It is as Trapp put it, "***The more a man knows of God, the more desirous he is to know him.***" (Trapp)

And I like the way that Marin Lloyd-Jones put it when he wrote, “*We may have been Christians for many years, but have we ever really longed for some person, direct knowledge and experience of God? Oh, I know, we pray for causes, we pray for the Church, we pray for missionaries, we pray for our own efforts that we organize, yes, but that is not what I am concerned about. We all ask for personal blessings, but how much do we know of this desire for God himself? That is what Moses asked for: ‘Show me thy glory. Take me yet a step nearer.’*”

May we draw near to God, to have that kind of passion for Him!

VERSES 19-20

This is another reason why I feel this is God the Father for He said, “**No man shall see Me and live.**”

It is as John tells us in John 1:18, “**No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.**”

And in John 6:46 Jesus said, “**Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.**”

Obviously, Jesus has seen the Father, they have always existed together and thus, Jesus is able to say in John 10:30, “**I and My Father are one.**”

If you want to know the Father, then get to know Jesus because He is an exact representation of the Father. If you have seen Jesus, then you have seen the Father!

God is promising to reveal His character to Moses, all that He is, His goodness and in that, that is all he truly needed to see, that is all he could stand to see in his body of flesh!

VERSES 21-23

What Moses saw, literally, was the afterglow of God the Father, for anything more would have been too much for him.

One writer put it like this in regard to covering the face of Moses with His hand, *“The word . . . could just as well and more accurately be rendered ‘the after-effects’ of his radiant glory, which had just passed by.”* (Kaiser)

And Poole puts it like this, *“Thou shalt see a shadow or obscure delineation of my glory, as much as thou canst bear, though not as much as thou dost desire.”*

May we have that desire to see God’s glory, the **CHABOD**, the weightier things of God and not be satisfied with just the fluff! May we desire to see all that God wants to show us of Himself!

EXODUS 34VERSES 1-4

If you remember back in Exodus chapter 32, as Israel was in sin and broke the covenant that they made with God, Moses broke those Tablets of the Law.

Now, with Israel repenting and God restoring them, God brings Moses back to the top of Mount Sinai to write the Law on two new tablets of stone. Thus, we see the covenant renewed.

Now, why was Moses alone?

Because sin had separated the people from God and Moses was acting as the mediator between the people and God just as Jesus is our Mediator!

Paul makes that point in I Timothy 2:5-6 when he wrote, **“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”**

There is no other Mediator between God and men, only Jesus and thus, you can never be reconciled to God apart from Jesus!

VERSES 5-7

Here we see once again the Shekinah glory cover the top of the mountain as the Lord speaks with Moses.

When you see **“LORD”** in all capital letters it is the name of God, all that He is, it is ***YAHWEH!***

Now the Jews held the name of God in high reverence and thus, they left out the vowels, so we don't know how it is really pronounced, it is written ***YHWH***.

And when they came to the name of God, they would not say it, they would say, ***“the Name.”***

Also, when the Scribes were copying the Word of God, as they came to the name of God, they would stop, take a bath, change their clothes, wash their pen, dip it in fresh ink and then they would write, ***“YHWH.”***

What does that mean, this ***ALL BECOMING ONE?***

We don't have to guess because the Lord tells us; it is all that He is, His character, His nature.

And look at what we are told of the Lord.

He is ***MERCIFUL*** or full of compassion.

It is as Psalm 78:38-39 tells us, **“But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, And did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, And did not stir up all His wrath; For He remembered that they were but flesh, A breath that passes away and does not come again.”**

He is **GRACIOUS** or He gives to us what we don't deserve, eternal life, His love, it is freely given to us.

He is **LONGSUFFERING** or God does not have a short fuse; He is slow to anger!

He **ABOUNDS IN GOODNESS AND TRUTH**, and we are blessed because of it!

He **KEEPS MERCY FOR THOUSANDS**, or the idea here is that we deserve death, but He does not destroy us!

He does this by **FORGIVING INIQUITY AND TRANSGRESSION AND SIN**.

Iniquity is a summation of both transgressions and sin.

Transgression is a willful act of disobedience while **sin** is missing the mark of perfection even though you may be trying, you still fall far short!

How does He forgive us?

That is all forgiven in Christ!

But, if his love and forgiveness are rejected, if they refuse the free gift of life that is found in Jesus, then they are guilty, and their guilt will not be cleared!

This judgment upon the third and fourth generation we covered in Exodus 20:5-6. And it is not a generational curse, but for those who reject the Lord, they will be judged.

Now I know we probably all struggle here. Wanting to do better and we fall short of what we want to do for the Lord. One writer put it like this, and he does nail it and hopefully it will help you have a correct perspective of your life.

He wrote, *“Sometimes we feel so weighed down with guilt that we wonder whether there is any way for God to forgive us. We are tempted to feel that what we have done is so evil that we have fallen beyond the reach of his grace. But however we define what we have done, God is willing to forgive. . . . He forgives wickedness, rebellion, and sin.”* (Romans 5:20)

Thank you Jesus!

VERSES 8-9

When you have an encounter with God, when you see His love, His grace, His mercy and-so-on, we are not forced to worship God, it just flows from our lives as it did in the life of Moses.

And Moses not only asked that their sin be forgiven, but that they would be His inheritance, His treasure. What else could you ask for!

How important is it to you to know God?

Spurgeon made these interesting comments regarding this subject.

He wrote, *“It has been said by someone that ‘the proper study of mankind is man.’ I will not oppose the idea, but I believe it is equally true that the proper study of God’s elect is God; the proper study of a Christian is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father.”*

VERSES 10-11

God tells them that He wants to do great things through them if they follow Him. If they don't, then they will face His judgment. But, in either case, God will be glorified!

Not only that but we also see God tell Moses that He will drive out all these "*ite's*" from the land, the enemy just as God is doing in our own lives.

Are these physical enemies as they were with Israel?

They could be but for the most part I believe the Lord is speaking of the flesh, which wars with our spirit. We are to crucify the flesh nature so that the nature of Jesus may flow from our lives; we are becoming more like Him! All we must do is follow Him!

Look at all the marvelous things God has done in our lives so far and all we need to do is allow His Spirit to work in our lives for His glory for as He works in us, He will work through us!

VERSES 12-16

God is calling for the children of Israel to separate themselves from the Canaanites, don't follow in their religious practices of worship, which many times involved sexual activity. Don't become close friends with them or they will bring you down. Don't marry them or you will fail!

That seems harsh, doesn't it?

When you understand the corruption, the evil, the wickedness of these people, the cup of their indignation was overflowing, and God was going to judge them.

He gave them an opportunity to change, but they didn't, and the Canaanites would be destroyed, they were beyond redemption and if they were not destroyed, then they would destroy the children of Israel.

You see, we are married to God; don't play the harlot as Israel has done.

In Hosea 1:2 we are told, **“When the Lord began to speak by Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea: ‘Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry And children of harlotry, For the land has committed great harlotry By departing from the Lord.’”**

That was a tough illustration, but Hosea did as the Lord commanded to show what the children of Israel had done, they played the harlot!

We are to separate ourselves and Paul put it like this in II Corinthians 6:14-18, **“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.’ Therefore ‘Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.’ ‘I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.’”**

Yes, God still wants us to be separate today from the unsaved, not that we can't talk with them, but they should not be our close, intimate friends. We should not be dating an unbeliever because they will bring you down more often than you will bring them up.

That is what the Lord has said, and you can agree or disagree, but if you disagree and you go down that path, understand there will be consequences to your actions, and that won't be good!

Now what about what is says in Exodus 34:14, **“... for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God”**? I thought the Bible speaks negatively about jealousy!

Oprah Winfrey says *she walked away from an orthodox view of Christianity when she heard a pastor preach about God being jealous!*

First of all, God's jealousy for us is not like man's jealousy. It is not envious, unlawful, it does not covet and for that matter, there is not anything negative in regard to God's jealousy towards us.

And we see here that God does not want us to go after idols or false gods because He loves us and does not want us to do anything that would hurt us or our relationship with Him.

When you look at God's jealousy for us you will see it is one that is filled with love and care, it is not evil! Not at all!

I like the way that Alan Redpath sums this up for us. He wrote, ***“God's jealousy is love in action. He refuses to share the human heart with any rival, not because He is selfish and wants us all for Himself, but because He knows that upon that loyalty to Him depends our very moral life . . . God is not jealous of us: He is jealous for us.”***

VERSE 17

God needed to remind them of not making a molded image to worship Him by for they had already broken the covenant by making the golden calf to worship God!

Folks, we are to worship God in Spirit and truth and not with idols!

For Israel, look at what Hosea 4:13-14 tells us they did, **“They offer sacrifices on the mountaintops, And burn incense on the hills, Under oaks, poplars, and terebinths, Because their shade is good. Therefore your daughters commit harlotry, And your brides commit adultery. ‘I will not punish your daughters when they commit harlotry, Nor your brides when they commit adultery; For the men themselves go apart with harlots, And offer sacrifices with a ritual harlot. Therefore people who do not understand will be trampled.”**

What God warned them not to do, what they said they would not do, they ended up doing!

VERSE 18

This was the first of three feasts that all Jewish males 20 years old and up were to keep, to go to Jerusalem, if possible, to celebrate them.

Passover and Unleavened Bread ran together with Passover beginning on the 14th of Nissan and Unleavened Bread on the 15th of Nissan and running for seven days.

Why does the Holy Spirit single out Unleavened Bread here?

Because in this feast all the leaven in the home was to be removed and, in the Scriptures, leaven is a type of sin.

Thus, as God speaks of this covenant they were to keep, He is calling for them to walk in purity!

God wants no less from us, we are to be holy as He is holy, that is the standard He has set, may we strive for it!

VERSES 19-28

In this section the Lord is reminding them of the Law's He has established to keep the nation separated from the other nations and to be separated unto the Lord!

Once again we see the three feasts mentioned that every Jewish male who was 20 years old and above was to keep, if they were able, in Jerusalem but they were to observe all seven feasts.

And God told them that if they come to worship Him, during those feast days, no enemy would come against them! God will honor them, protect those who are coming to worship Him!

Keep in mind that this was the second time Moses spent forty days and forty nights on Mount Sinai with the Lord and he did not eat or drink during both of these times he spent with the Lord.

Folks, this was a miracle as God sustained him all those days for no man can survive that long without food and water. But God sustained him as he fellowshiped with the Lord.

Now don't go home and try this, Moses was called by God to do this.

Yes, fasting is Scriptural and there are many types of fasts, but make sure when you are fasting that you are doing it for the right reasons, you are seeking direction from God, you want to draw close to Him and not for your own personal gain, which would be unfruitful!

VERSES 29-30

The face of Moses had a glow to it, it shined, and the people were afraid, he was radiating, but why?

Because of the time he spent in the glory of God.

As Christians we should shine forth or radiate God to people.

You see, as you spend time in the *SUN* you will see the affects with either a suntan or sunburn!

The same is true as you spend time in the *SON OF GOD*, you will see the affects and so will others! There will be that joy, that peace, that love and so on radiating from your life and what you might not see, others will!

Paul put it like this in II Corinthians 3:18, **“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”**

The Amplified Bible puts it like this, **“And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.”**

And The Living Bible says, **“But we Christians have no veil over our faces; we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him.”**

Thus, as you spend time with Him, in His Word, you are being transformed into His image; you will radiate His glory to those around you!

VERSES 31-35

Moses gives to them the commandments of God, the Mosaic Covenant, which was the bases of God’s Theocratic rule over His people!

We also see that Moses places a veil over his face and we are told that the people were afraid of his shining face. But that was not the reason he did it.

How do I know that for sure?

Because Paul tells us in II Corinthians 3:13, **“unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.”**

He covered his face because as he spent time away from the Lord, that glory, that shine began to fade away and he did not want the children of Israel to see that.

And Paul helps us to understand that this fading away was a picture of what was to happen with the Old Covenant that was written on the tablets of stone, that it would fade away and give way for something that shined far brighter, the New Covenant based in the shed blood of Christ on the cross of Calvary for our sins!

One last point here and that is this.

Why is it that in many of the medieval artworks of Moses they have him portrayed with a pair of horns on his head?

It is because of a mistranslation of the phrase, **“the skin of Moses’ face shone”** found in Exodus 34:35.

The Hebrew word for **“shone”** means, *“shot forth beams”* and it is related to the noun for ***“horn.”***

Thus, the Latin Vulgate mistranslated this verb as ***“having horns.”***

Because of that we see that the artwork is based on a mistranslation and has nothing to do with Moses having horns on his head!

EXODUS 35**VERSES 1-3**

Yes, there was much work to be done but obedience is more important than sacrifice.

Thus, they were to work for six days and then rest on the seventh day, the Sabbath and spend it with the Lord.

For us, the same is true, obedience must come first and out of that obedience we can then do the work of the Lord! We should desire to take that time and spend it with the Lord!

VERSES 4-9

Why didn't God just create these materials for the Tabernacle?

Because He is allowing them to be involved in His Work, but only those who want to give, they are not being forced to give.

Moses didn't have some clever fund-raising technique or tell them he would swallow a goldfish if they obtained all the materials for the Tabernacle.

No, he told them what was needed and that was it, then it was up to them to give for the work of the Lord!

That is Paul's point as he tells us in I Corinthians 9:7, "**So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.**"

And that goes not only for our money, but our time, using our gifts.

If you are serving and complaining, then you are not a cheerful giver and folks, I don't think anyone is forcing you to do it.

If you don't want to, then don't, but I will also tell you this, you miss out on the blessing!
But if you can't give cheerfully, then don't give at all!

And I truly believe that God touches the hearts of people who have a willing spirit to give, and they do!

Look at when we were trying to purchase this building, we had no resources, but I let you know what was needed and that was it, and God spoke to your hearts and here we are today!

VERSES 10-19

Here we see the call for those who are gifted to come and assist in the work of building and furnishing the Tabernacle.

Over the years we have had needs for people to rise up and use the gifts that God has given them, and they came forward. What a blessing it is to all of us, and I am sure those that God is using are blessed as well!

VERSES 20-29

When God touches people's hearts you don't have to force them to work, you can't stop them from working!

VERSES 30-35

Bezalel and Aholiab were called by God to do this work, gifted men who not only could do this work, but they were able to teach others!

How important that is and what a special gift that is but for it to work the people must also be willing to step forward as God is calling!

I think that Exodus 36:1 belongs at the end of this chapter as we are told, **“And Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whom the Lord has put wisdom and understanding, to know how to do all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, shall do according to all that the Lord has commanded.”**

The workers were to follow these men in the work of building and furnishing the Tabernacle!

And I want you to see how God touched the hearts of the people to give. We will get to this next time but in Exodus 36:6-7 we are told, **“So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, ‘Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary.’ And the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done - indeed too much.”**

How awesome is that. The people had to be restrained from giving because they had more than enough to build the Tabernacle and everything that was associated with it!

Now, in regard to the gifts that God has given us, He wants us to use the gifts that He has given to us.

Paul put it like this in Philippians 2:12-16, **“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.”**

Paul is not saying that we are to work in for our salvation or work for our salvation, but we are to work out our salvation because we are saved, allow good works to flow from our lives and bring glory to God!

I realize that you may feel weak; that you can't do it and that is okay. Remember what Paul said in Philippians 4:13, **“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”**

With that perspective we can't lose as we walk where the Lord has called us! We are all given gifts by God, may we use them to bring glory to Him and to bless people!

**PICTURE OF MOSES WITH HORNS ON HIS HEAD –
MISINTERPRETATION OF HIS FACE SHINING!**

