

Let's Get Together: What the Relationship of Moses and God Teaches Us about Prayer

Breaking Bread Discipleship Class

1. "I Am Who I Am" - Meeting God in Prayer

Opening Thoughts: Ex 33:7-11

What has your experience been with face to face conversations? When is it necessary? Why do we sometimes avoid them? What happens if it is avoided? How do these questions also apply to our relationship with God? What did God teach Moses about his desire to have a face to face relationship with his people?

Study: Exodus 3:1-4:17

Introductory Notes on Exodus: (for more, see Bible Project video on website)

Exodus "way out" / "journey out"

Part 1 - journey out to the mountain

Part 2 - meeting with the LORD at the mountain

1. 33:11 says Moses spoke "face to face with the LORD like a friend." What is different about Moses' experience at the burning bush in 3:1-6? What do you think changed in between? What does this teach us about our prayer life? What do you think a "face to face" relationship with the LORD is like? (This will be the subject of our ongoing study and conversation)

2. In the very next verses, the LORD tells Moses that He has seen and "knows" their suffering and has come down to do something about it. What do you think it means for God to "know" their suffering? (Refer back to 2:23-25) How does that help us in our prayers and faith?

3. What is the "sign" that will assure the people of Israel that God is with them? (3:12) Why might a Christian's journey with God become filled with doubt? Have you ever seen God "meet" you somewhere so that He alleviated that doubt? What does Sunday morning worship have to do with these questions of "meeting with God"?

4. Read v.13-15. The Hebrew word that God uses to introduce Himself is in a first person ("I") verbal form, "ehyeh". How is this personal name translated in your Bible? What do you think this curious name is meant to teach you about God and prayer?

5. There is a difference between a common noun and a personal name. Grammar Class!! If you go to see your physician, you might call him “doctor,” but you know that is not his first name. In the Bible, there is a distinction between the Hebrew word for “God”/ “gods” (Elohim) and the personal name of a god: Ra, Baal, Zeus. In 3:15, the name of God is expressed in a third person (“he”/ “him”) verbal form (yeheh / yewah). Most scholars don’t really agree on how to pronounce this Hebrew name or how to translate it. Bibles will default to a common tradition of translating “The LORD” (all caps is different than Lord / “Master”). In our context, God has revealed Himself through Jesus. Do you see a difference between praying to “God” in general and praying to “Our Father” or praying through/in “Jesus”? What has your experience been of how you picture God and address him face to face in prayer?

Closing Thoughts: Next time we will learn more about how conflict relates to prayer. Moses enters into a great cosmic conflict with Pharaoh and his spiritual powers (gods). Pharaoh has enslaved God’s people, and the LORD intervenes to rescue them. The story of the Exodus unfolds as Moses performs a series of 10 miracles to demonstrate to Pharaoh that he has no power or standing before the LORD. We don’t have time or space to delve into the amazing significance of these works in detail, so we will focus on the overall spiritual battle being waged, and how that relates to our own experience of prayer. See the details for your reading for next time below.

Any Prayer Requests? Final Questions or Comments?

For Next Time, Read Ahead and Reflect on the Questions Below:

2. *“Let My People Go” – Facing Conflict in Prayer (5:1-6:13)*

Read and Reflect: Conflict develops in our physical and emotional relationships. This happens with the people closest to us. This happens in conversations within our own selves. Ultimately, this relates to our spiritual relationship with God. During times of conflict, why do you think a person might opt for a text or email rather than meeting for a face to face conversation? What tends to happen in such situations? How might this sort of experience also play out in our prayer relationship with God?

Key Verse: Exodus 5:2 And Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.”