

COMPASSION- A Heart for the People

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Main Scriptures: Exodus 23: 20 - 21; Exodus 33: 1- 23; Exodus 34: 1- 11

Supporting scriptures: Matthew 10: 16; Hebrews 4: 14-16; Micah 7: 18

Notes

The story we last looked on- Moses was with God where he went up to receive from God the tablets of stone with the laws on it to govern the nation of Israel. While he was with God the Lord spoke to Moses in Exodus 32: 7- 10

In the midst of Moses being with God to receive from the Lord the laws written on it - Moses was enjoying the presence of God but it was interrupted because something was happening with the Israelites.

We spoke about how Moses seized the opportunity to seek mercy for the People of Israel. Moses with his love for the people interceded for the people. In Exodus 33 - this is a moment after a catastrophic event the Lord is speaking again - God is saying what I have promised you and the promise I made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - He will perform it but he will not go up in the midst of them. In other words, God's wrath was kindled in what took place in the worship of the golden calf. God was not going to travel with them but he would stand by his word.

Israel had sinned and they had failed and at the moment when the leader was with God to receive from God the laws to govern the entire nation they rebelled and now God is speaking to Moses and everyone is waiting to find out what's next. Moses recognizes what was happening and so he took the tabernacle and pitched it far off from the camp. Moses is still in a relationship with God. He is the one called to lead the nation God is still talking with him but there is an issue in the camp.

Moses' heart and mind are on the people, God said these people are a stiff-necked people - set in their own way to rebel. We should always have in their heart a concern for people. Moses could enjoy his relationship with God but Moses' concern is whether or not there is a place for stiff-necked people. Can they be elevated from the low realm they have debased themselves to?

When we know the ways of God that's how we experience it.

The presence of the Lord travels with those who have found favor with the Lord.

It is not the laws of men that tell us that we are different it is the presence of the Lord. Always the presence of the Lord that makes the difference.

The prayer of Moses has set the platform for a process of renewal. Moses in his conversation with the Lord is pushing every limit.

God calls Moses to come back into his presence in Exodus 34 and this tells us that God wants to have a relationship with humanity. God is interested in having a relationship with us.

When God calls out to individuals (and now there is a call in this earth - as God is interested in saving people.) he wants to have a relationship with people.

Moses is being called up into the mountain to present himself to receive the laws that were previously written.

God brought Moses to the mountain to allow Moses to understand what God wants to be known as

The self-existing Sovereign God wants people to know that he is merciful. Stiff-necked people can't change with anger but what they need is mercy. If we are to impact this world we need to show people that God is a God of mercy.

He is a God of mercy, compassion, and grace. What the nation of Israel needs in their state - God was revealing to Moses they needed the mercy and grace and longsuffering of God

While Moses is hearing this about the Lord he made haste and worshipped - even in the presence of such a revelation his mind is still on the people who needed something from the Lord. He recognized that the people can not go into the land with the Angel that cannot forgive in Exodus 23 but now that God presents himself as a God of mercy and that the people are so stiff-necked he asks God to come with them. He wants the presence of God to travel with them.

We are sent into this world as Sheep amongst wolves (Matthew 10: 16-17). There needs to be a connection in the believer's spirit that shares the passion God has for the world. We should always be knocking on the doors of prayer because we knock and it's opening. It's a man who chisels through the rock until there is water from the rock. The believer must have a passion for people who are lost in this society. Moses kept on knocking and in the midst of the revelation he saw that God is a God of mercy and compassion and so Moses took that opportunity to ask God for an exchange for the people's stiff-neckedness for God's Mercy.

The great need of Man is forgiveness of sin and if the church can make the Love of God to individuals (the love of God not the Judgement of God) he wants to be known as one who is slow to anger and has an abundance of mercy and truth.

He wants us to know we do have not a high priest that's can't be touched with the feelings of our infirmities.

Those of us in the Lord should not carry a spirit of condemnation but we should pray and encourage. He wants us to be children of Mercy and he wants us to show to others the attributes of God here we show mercy and are concerned for others. Moses gave a good example who is always concerned with other people.

Let's ask the Lord to activate that sense of compassion and concern for individuals. Concern for the people of this world and those who are backslidden and have walked away from the presence of the Lord. Rather than being critical and condemning ask the Lord to give us a passion to pray for them and cry over their souls.

God's heart must be our heart. What he desires is what we should desire.