

BIBLE STUDY FACE TO FACE EXODUS 33:1-11

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I. Introduction

A. The text's position is -

1. The children of Israel are on a wilderness journey to the Promised Land.
2. There are about 2.5 million persons on this journey.
3. They march about 10 miles a day because it is a mixed multitude of young, old, male, female, people, and cattle.
4. Since they were slaves the entire journey is a new experience for them.

B. The text's problem is -

1. They sinned and worshipped a golden calf when Moses was on the mountain receiving the Ten Commandments.
2. Because of their sin God decided that He would not go with them to the Promised Land.

II. God's Presence Should Be A Priority (vv 1-4)

A. This text speaks to how precious presence of God is.

1. God is omnipresent which means He is everywhere at the same time.
 - a. God created space just like He created everything else.
 - b. Therefore He must be above and beyond the limitations of space. If there were space where God did not occupy then space would be greater than God.
 - c. Psalm 139:7-12 states that God is everywhere.

B. His presence is an intimate face-to-face encounter with God. It represents an open and honest relationship with God.

C. So God decided He would fulfill His promise but not give His presence

1. They thought it was bad news that God would not go to the Promised Land with them.
2. The people choose to forget about the provisions of God to have the presence of God.

D. The truth is that without His presence we will mess up His promises.

III. God's Presence Brings Us Purity (vv 5-8)

A. God called them stiff-necked.

1. Stiff-necked means cruel, grievous, hard-hearted, obstinate, rough, sorrowful, and stubborn.
2. God does not excuse or tolerate our sin.

3. God knows how to deal with our sin.
- B. God commanded that they strip.
 1. He commanded them to take off their ornaments.
 2. Remove the rings, earrings and other jewelry.
 - a. This represented removing items of value.
 3. Repentance is stripping naked before God. You feel sorrow for your sin and ask forgiveness.
 4. When we get intimate we strip ourselves. God does not want anything between Him and us.
- C. Moses communicates with God.
 1. Moses takes his tent and set it up out side of the camp.
 - a. Because if you want to hear from God you must get away and be alone with God.
 - b. Also, God does not dwell in the midst of sin.
 - c. It became the tent of meeting.
 2. The tent of meeting differed from the tabernacle.
 - a. The tabernacle was in the midst of the camp.
 - b. The tabernacle was a place of sacrifice.
 3. Moses and others would talk with God at the tent of meeting.

IV. God's Presence Promotes Worship (vv 9-11)

- A. God's presence would meet Moses at the tent of meeting.
 1. All the people would watch when God's presence descended.
- B. All the people would worship God when Moses talked with God face to face.
 1. God's presence brings an atmosphere or worship.
 2. Worship means to bow down or be prostrate.