

Missions & Community Outreach Festival; *Sermon: Mission Centered on God's Glory*
Delivered on Oct. 13, 2019, by **Phil Smith**, Leadership Resources Int'l executive director

Bible text explored: Exodus 33:12–34:9

³³¹²Moses 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.’ ¹³Now 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.” ¹⁴And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” ¹⁵And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶For 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?”

¹⁷And 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.” ¹⁸Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” ¹⁹And 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. ²⁰But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” ²¹And the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²²and 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. ²³Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

³⁴¹The LORD said to Moses, “Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. ²Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain. ³No one shall come up with you, and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain.” ⁴So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. ⁵The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” ⁸And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. ⁹And he said, “If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.” [ESV]

Review and application:

How does a God who is wholly other dwell in the midst of a rebellious people?

1. In what ways had Moses himself rebelled against God?
(See *Exod. 2:11-12; 3:10; 4:10-12.*)
How had the Israelites rebelled after seeing God’s glory demonstrated at Mount Sinai?
(See *Exod. 32:1-4.*)
2. What had been God’s purpose in dramatically delivering the Israelites from oppressive slavery in Egypt? (See *Exod. 25:8-9.*)
3. As Moses meets God a second time on Mount Sinai, what (*33:18*) is Moses’ surprising request?

In the Hebrew language, *glory* connotes weightiness, substance, and reality. What urgent desire of Moses motivated this request? (See *33:15* and *34:9.*)

4. What (33:19) is God's two-fold response?
 - a. Of what would he give Moses a glimpse?
How does God's goodness extend beyond holiness and justice?
 - b. How would proclaiming his name reveal God's character?
(See *Exod. 3:14* and *33:14 [above]*, where *rest* literally means a place to roost [for a homeless people], also *34:6*.)
5. How was the distance between God and his people partially breached so that they could experience his presence? (See *Exod. 40:34-38*.)
6. How can we see God's glory more clearly than the Israelites could?
(See *John 1:14* and *2 Cor. 3:7-8, 17-18*.)
How does the death of our Redeemer on the cross most clearly show . . .
 - . . . how much God hates evil?
 - . . . how merciful he is?
7. How did Jonah resist God's glory? (See *Jonah 3:10-4:2*.)
8. How will being shaped by God's glory fuel global missions? (See *Ps. 145:8-12*.)
How can we delight in putting his glory on display for all to see?
9. How can we as believers reflect God's heart by . . .
 - . . . being a holy people?
 - . . . treating sojourners with compassion?
10. Why (33:14) can we confidently trust his glory?
11. How can we longingly anticipate his glory? (Read and reflect on *Rev. 21:22-27*.)