

The King invites a meeting...

I was away on vacation last week

Exodus 33v7-10a

It was Moses' custom to set up the tent of meeting far outside of the camp. Everyone who wanted to consult with the Lord would go there.

*Whenever Moses went out to the Tent of Meeting, all the people would get up and stand in their tent entrances. They would all watch Moses until he disappeared inside. As he went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and hover at the entrance while the Lord spoke with Moses. Then all the people would stand and bow low at their tent entrances. Inside the Tent of Meeting, **the Lord would speak to Moses face to face**, as a man speaks to his friend.*

Israel, after being led from the captivity of Egypt, is now in the wilderness, living nomadic. Many of these people had lived in and around the Egyptian gods and were aware of Yahweh and were developing a fear and respect for Him.

In his leadership, Moses was told to establish a place for those he was leading to connect with Yahweh.

I want to look at this passage and Psalm 91 this morning. We understand that it is the condition of humanity to tend towards repetition. Mistakes seem to repeat through time. I believe there is a mistake in this story that we would do well to avoid.

Key phrases:

"wanted to consult" - Hebrew word meaning to, "strive after, or desire."

Moses' didn't made an opportunity possible. God did. Moses simply obeyed what the Lord had given him to do.

Notice the syntax, "everyone who wanted." It is important. It tells us that there was an opportunity placed in front of the people of God to meet with Him, to talk to Him. All they had to do was go to the place designated.

"the Lord would speak to Moses, face to face" - Hebrew word meaning, "to converse."

In the Tent of Meeting was an opportunity to talk with God. In this way, the byproduct of going to the Tent of Meeting and seeking God was the face to face encounter. That was God's agenda and desire for ALL his people.

Moses is the author of this passage. Moses, who had this face to face relationship with God. I believe it is safe to say that Moses learned some things from this encounter. God invaded Moses' life and changed it.

From the moment of the burning bush, Moses maintained a continuous relationship with God. Why? Because I believe he had discovered something. I believe he had discovered something

Psalm 91v1-2

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

This I declare of the Lord:

He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; He is my God, and I am trusting Him.

Those - A proprietary term meaning, 'that man or woman.'

who live - to decision to sit down, as in a place of dwelling where one remains.

shelter - a hidden place of secrecy. To be alone

Moses had learned about a key in the Kingdom.

God was accessible to man.

The Supernatural was accessible in the Natural.

In this place, a relationship was established. God became a friend.

What was required?

1. A personal choice to go. (who dwells)
2. A determination to live from this place. (will abide)

Notice the Mosaic declaration in this text:

He is my refuge, my place of safety, my God, the one I trust.

These statements are the revelational byproducts Moses learned in his encountering of God.

Faith is fueled by encounter.

Trust is built in Presence.

Safety is understood in intimacy.

What do I mean?

I mean you cannot understand these truths about our God until you make the choice to encounter Him. These are the beautiful benefits of encountering our King.

Exodus 33 again...

Whenever Moses went out to the Tent of Meeting, all the people would get up and stand in their tent entrances. They would all watch Moses until he disappeared inside. As he went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and hover at the entrance while the Lord spoke with Moses. Then all the people would stand and bow low at their tent entrances.

_____ get up and stand - to look, scan, or regard with pleasure

_____ bow low - a position of reverence, often associated with worship.

This looks like a beautiful moment, does it not? But herein lies my concern with our day and our time.

What I see here is what I call the, "I want to be in and around the things of God," complex

Wrap up

I do not. I want to know God, not just be around what He does.

We must become a people who are discontent with watching His move and only satisfied by a genuine encounter with Him.

We must become a people who find our own revelations of His goodness in His presence.

We are to be a people who dwell in His presence on a proprietary level. The byproduct is the overflow of His Presence on a family level.

One where He dwells amongst those who are His friends.

I see us at an important crossroads. In our culture, churches often fixate on growth and on culture.

That is not our calling. Our calling is to be a dwelling place for Him. I am calling us back to the simple beauty of the Secret Place.

Go meet with your King. Go experience His love. Go discover His beauty.

You were built for His presence. It is your birthright.

God has favorites. But anyone who wants to can become a favorite.