

Series: the goodness of God

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Honorable requests and Divine responses

Scene: God and Moses are in the tent of meeting, and God has revealed to Moses that he is preparing to divorce Israel because they are a “stiff-necked people.” However, because he's a good husband, he's gonna prepare the land of Canaan by removing all of their enemies and sending angels to provide spousal. **Exodus 33:1-6**

Now you're probably wondering how we got here. Well, in Exodus 32, while Moses was in a spiritual retreat with God on Mount Sinai, the children of Israel grew impatient, waiting on the Lord, so they commissioned Aaron to make them a god of their own.

Be careful not to let your impatience create your own god.

Moses was so enraged at their idolatry that he commanded the Levites to kill 3000 people that day. The Lord even visited a plague upon them because of their sin.

In the dialogue that follows, we see the honorable requests of Moses and the divine responses of God: **Exodus 33:12-23**

Honorable request: “Show me your ways that I may know you in order to find a favor in your sight.” Exodus 33:13

One of our most important pursuits is to know the character of God. This revelation grants us the ability to think and act as he does, and it also increases our faith so that we will trust he will do what is consistent with his character.

Divine response: “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” Exodus 33:14.

God's presence is the most valuable thing God can give us. And the only true rest we could ever experience is the rest that comes from him.

Honorable request: “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring me up from here.” Exodus 33:15

Abandoned any pursuit that is not inclusive of the presence of God.

Honorable request: “Please show me your glory.” Exodus 33:18

Moses literally asked the Lord to be immersed in the divine realities of God. The divine realities of God are inclusive of the burdens, the riches, the reputation, the honor, and the splendor of God.

Divine response: 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. Exodus 33:19

This last statement from God is the one we must wrestle with this week and maybe every day for the rest of our lives. Because of his sovereignty God will dispense his mercy and grace on whomever he chooses, even if they don't fit our qualifications as proper recipients of such. It is in the knowing of him, and in the experiencing of his glory, that we come to grips with the fact that God will do whatever he will and that's all right with us.