

Can We Draw Near to a Holy God?

Exodus 33

Today we read Exodus 33. The scene opens at Mt. Sinai, after God freed His people Israel from bondage in Egypt (Exodus 1-15). But they have just committed a great sin, the worship of a golden calf (Exodus 32), and this after their bitter complaining towards God during the journey (Exodus 16-17).

We have four questions in Exodus 33, and each has a surprising answer!

- Please don't rely on your own 'instincts,' thinking you already know the answer to these questions. Instead, let us listen to the Word of God and learn.

Q1: Will God Draw Near to His People? (33:1-6)

- Answer: _____ (see 33:3; and 33:5 also)
- Side comment about "drawing near": the spatial teaches the relational

Q2: Will God Draw Near to Moses? (33:7-11)

- Answer: _____ (see 33:11)

Q3: Will God Draw Near to His People, if Moses requests this? (33:12-17)

- Answer: _____ (see 33:17)

- **Moses the mediator:** between God and His people
- "Wait, God does this as a... personal favor? Is this right? Is this just?"
 - Justice is NOT what Israel wanted—and nor should you! Mercy is our only hope. (33:19) And surprisingly, this comes through a mediator.

Q4: Can Moses Draw Near to God to Worship Him? (33:18-23)

- Answer: Yes—but not completely (see 33:19-20)

To the Supper: **Christ the Mediator**

- Moses the mediator falls short and points to why we need Christ the Mediator (Numbers 20:12; Exodus 32:30-34)

Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Read Exodus 33. Summarize it by answering this question: Can we draw near to a Holy God? (By the way, it should be hard to briefly answer this question in a sound byte!)
2. Look at verse 33:19. Why is it important for you to know this?: "And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy."
3. Surprisingly, a mediator matters in our relationship with God! How does this affect your life practically? How should it?