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Exodus 33 versus 12 through 23. These are God's words. Then Moses said to Yahweh. See you say to me, bring up this people. But you have not. Let me know. Whom you shall send, you will send with me. Yet. You have said, I know you by name And you've also found grace in my sight.

Now therefore, I pray. If I have found grace in your sight, Show me now your way. That I may know you. And that I may find grace in your sight. And consider. That this nation. Is your people? And he said my presence will go with you. And I will give you rest.

Then he said to him. If your presence does not go with us. Do not bring us up from here. For how then, will it be known that your people and I have found grace? And your sight. And accept you go with us. So, we shall be separate your people and I From all the people.

Who are upon the face of the earth.

So, you always said to Moses, I will also do this thing that you have spoken. For you, have found grace in my sight. And I know you by name. And he said, please. Show me your glory. Then he said, I will make all my goodness pass before you And I will proclaim the name of Yahweh before you I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious.

That will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But he said, You cannot see my face. For no man shall see me and live, And Yahweh said, here is a place by me. And you shall stand on the rock. So, it shall be. While my glory passes by, But I will put you in the cleft of the rock.

And we'll cover you with my hand while I pass by. Then I will take away my hand. And you shall see my back. But my face shall not. Be seen.

So far, the reading of God's. Inspired. And Inherentworth.

There's something about our being created in God's image, or created to have being created to have fellowship with them. That makes people instinctively know that they ought to pray.

And they. Apart from grace, of course we want. Uh, prayer to be. Our way of making God, give us what we want. And, Uh, it's then viewed as a sort of magic. By which if you use the right words, it's almost like an incantation. Uh, you can get from God, the result.

That you want? I used to work in a bookstore. Called Coaxbury. Uh, after two men named Coke and Asbury who The founders of the Methodist Church in America. UMC. In fact, it was the official bookstore for the UMC. United Methodist Church. The PCUS USA. And the reformed church in America.

And I think maybe the ELCA, Um, Uh, not denominations that you want to be familiar with, or Or attend. Uh, But we would make very brisk sales. In the power of prayers for this and power prayers for that and prayers, that break these chains and yeah. Any prayers for husbands and

wives and parents, and other people who want to figure out, how to make the people that they're in a family, with do whatever they want to do.

And, It was dreadful. But we know that we should pray. The disciples knew. That they should pray. And perhaps at some point, they thought that they knew how to pray. But then the lord Jesus came along. And called them to follow him. And they began spending time with him.

And one of the things we discover about our lord, as Uh we study what he was like in his earthly life in the gospels, is he prayed? It was always praying. Getting up early to pray, staying up late to pray. Leaving the whole world behind. To pray. Praying, because he's going to pick his disciples brain because he's going to leave his disciples praying because he's going to go to the cross.

And one of the things. That his example of prayer did. Was it taught them that they didn't really know how to pray? One day, they were listening to him praying. And when he was done, they said teach us to pray. That of course is how we have what's called?

The lord's Prayer.

Uh, but he might also have said, i've, i've given you an entire bible. To teach you how to pray. In fact, right in the middle of it. There is a prayer book, there's a songbook, which is a prayer book. Much of which are several selections from, which Uh, we have just finished singing.

Together. And so we want to know how to pray especially in a way. That. Receives the sort of response that we see in verse 17. So, y'all always said to Moses, I will also do this thing that you have spoken. In fact, there's a clue at the beginning of the passage that the the holy spirit is teaching us about prayer because ordinarily, as we've gone through Exodus The different passages, the different.

Units are introduced by saying then yahweh said to Moses, then you always said to Moses, then you always said to Moses. Then you always said to Moses. Well, if you look at verse 12, this passage begins. Then moses. Said to yahweh. This is one of the amazing things. That god gives to his friends.

That he listens to them. He listens. To. Abram. As he intercedes for sodom and Gomorrah. Of all places. And he provokes Abram to this prayers. He says, shall i hide from him? What i am about to do, since i have chosen him. And it's part of our being. Uh, given by god's.

Pleasure by god's decision. To be his very own. That he He tells us. Uh, what his plans are, this is what Jesus said, when he was calling his disciples, his friends. He said. Uh, masters don't bring their their servants into their councils, their slaves, into their councils. I'm telling you about my plans.

Because i call you friends. And so, god speaks to his friends and he listens to his friends. He gives us this sort of fellowship. Yeah, that's one of the sad things in isaiah 58. Where the jews thought that they had could make their voice to be heard on high.

By what they were doing. When the lord has created us, To hear him. And to be heard by him. And then he has redeemed us. That we might hear him. And that we might be heard. By him. And that's what verse 12 verse 17, as kind of the introduction to the passage and really this Amazing statement that sticks out and shapes.

Are reading of the passage. Uh, these are the clues that the spirit gives us That this is what's happening here. Moses is praying. Um, It's a little bit like that interaction. Uh between Abram

and yahweh are the one of the three yahweh that stayed back with Abram. While two went on to Uh, to sodom.

And, I'll leave you to go dig up that sermon and listen to it so that you may be convinced. That they're not. Merely angels are merely men but a Uh, if you will Some kind of triple or we would even say Trinitarian Appearance of got. But there is something here where moses keeps praying.

And, Uh, god keeps granting him. What he has requested. And so moses is encouraged by god to pray for a little bit more. You remember that with abram and sodom except for with Abram? Uh, you know, he was trying to get the number down to something that surely even in sodom, there are 10 but Sodom or sodom.

Uh, but here we have something marvelous. In the three requests. And if you picked up an outline Uh, you can see that. They roughly, follow god's promises. Uh, to abram, we're to abraham, Isaac and jacob. Uh, in verses 12 and 13. Promises concerning. And related to noah. And the nowhere, covenant.

In verses 14 through 16. And then, Moses goes for it all. Uh, that for which Adam was made, and which would ultimately be given and secured by the last atom, our lord jesus christ. Now, do you want to know how to pray? Do you ever feel like you're fumbling for words?

Don't know what to ask for in a particular situation. Well, what we learn is we follow these three prayer requests. Is the the great way of praying. Is to take whatever god has said. And plead that back to him. Uh, children instinctively know with their daddies That. This is how to really Plead effectively with daddy.

Daddy, you promise that Daddy, you said that? Sometimes i even take advantage of or will maybe be a little more charitable to the children. Perhaps, they really did. Imagine that their dad had said that, but Um, Sometimes they say that even about things that daddy has not said Well thankfully the lord has given us all of his words and promises and writing.

One of the one of the best. Ways to apply what we have before us. Is to pray with an open bible. Uh, if the lord has promised something ask for it. We said earlier, when we were talking about how to interact with god and his word, whether in study or especially in preaching That if the lord commands something do it.

Well, when you're praying and the lord commands something ask, For grace to do it. For you're not going to do it any other way, then by his grace, But we're getting a little bit ahead of ourselves. So in verse 12, moses says to yahweh You say to me? Bring up this people.

And so, he's asking now. For help obeying the command. Says, but you have not let me know. Whom you will send with me. Remember the lord had said, bring up this people. My angel will go before you. He'll be the advanced party. He's going to go to canon. He's going to wipe everyone out.

And then you can just come in and get all the blessing. But you remember, i hope from the last couple of weeks that God had done this wonderful work. In israel to make them refuse to have all of the other blessings without god himself. And so that's all well and good.

That there will be the the advanced special operations forces that Go in and do all the dirty work and we just come take the spoils behind them. But who will go with us? That's the question. And it's a question that comes within the context of of asking that the lord would be present in the midst of his people.

There's a problem. How can god be present in the midst of a people like this? So right in the midst of you, i'm going to be lucky when i was in the midst of egypt, didn't turn out, good for the egyptians. And you're not acting like you're not acting any better than they are.

And you remember them plundering themselves of their ornaments. And so forth. So he's been given a command. And now, he's asking to obey that command. But in the context of asking to obey the command he's expressing his neediness, You know, god is God of grace even when it comes to his law.

Not that. He sets his law side. But that he who gives the commandment gives the strength, and the goodness by which the commandment can be, can be kept. And so, the law. Uh, should never leave a bad taste in our mouth. Legalism should. The idea that we can do this thing without him.

And that we can act and do this thing without him to get stuff from him. That's exactly the opposite. Of the relationship in which the law is given. And so if you want to protect yourself from legalism, here's one great help, pray. For obedience to the law. Once we says, You say to me, bring up this people but you have not, let me know.

Whom you will send with me. Yeah, you have said i know you by name and you have also found grace in my sight, he's quoting something. We don't know. Where that was originally said, it is quite possible. That that is what mode, what you always or part of what y'all Lake kept repeating.

To Moses on his visits to the tent of meeting, which we heard about last week. Where verse 11 tells us, yahweh spoke to Moses face to face. As a man speaks to his friend. So, he says, Uh, Now, therefore i pray if i have found grace in your sight, Possibly this, i know you by name and you have found grace and my sight.

Uh was said there, it was said at some point, he's quoting the lord there. If i have found grace in your sight, show me now your way. That i may know you. And that i may find grace in your sight. You have said this about my relationship with you.

Now lord give that to me. So wonderful thing to pray for instance, in response to what we've been hearing in the midweek meetings. You have said these things about my union with christ. You have said these things about how the the work that you have done by pouring your spirit out on me must be completed.

You have said these things about the the power and permanence of his resurrection and therefore the power and permanence of my deliverance from sin's power now, o, lord give me too. Lead me not into temptation. Now, o lord, give me to be delivered from evil when i am and temptation.

The evil me, most of all. And, To take that, which god has said. And pray for those necessary applications of it. You hear? That. You need to. Your instructed by god to lead your family before his face. Not just to give bible lessons. Uh, but As one appointed by god as his officer in the home.

Uh, to address on his behalf. And press god's claims home. Upon. Yourself and upon your family. Oh lord. Give me. Give me to know. How to address my wife. How to address my children. Give me the courage to start something new. Uh, that your word tells me to do and give them the tender heartedness.

To get past the awkwardness of it. And to do it with a good will cheerfully and diligently. Ask for. Particular applications. Instead, if i have found grace in your site, Show me now your way. Now, go with me. If you're going to take a path to Canaan, Now, take me on the same path.

That you are going. To go to Canaan. That i may know you that i might find grace in your sight. And consider that this nation. Is your people? And, There he is, especially Asking for. Uh, the lords to fulfill the greatest part of the abrahamic promise. I will multiply you so wonderful promise.

I will give you a land. It's a wonderful promise. I will be your god. And you will be my people. Is an infinitely greater Promise. And that's what he's saying here. Don't just, you know, there's a ton of us here. Um, my kids would say that's not that many people.

It's only two thousand pounds. Um, so there's a few million of us here. They got that from their data and not blaming my kids. Uh there's a few million of us here. We've been fruitful and multiplied or you know you've multiplied us multiply to succeedingly sand on the on the shore stars in the sky.

You're going to take us into Canaan. Praise god. But you also set That you will be our God. And we will be your people. And so he takes the promise of god. And he pleads that in prayer, consider. That this nation. Is your people? Count them as your people.

So, that's Uh, the first prayer request. Prayer of submission to a command prayer. Of request for help to obey and then just pleading. How god's own promises? For that help. You know, often. Uh, you may come to the lord jesus christ should come probably To the lord to god through the lord.

Jesus christ saying, oh, lord How greatly i have sinned. Since last i prayed, since last, we had fellowship in your work since last i came before your face in this way. But none, who have christ can be damped. I come clinging to jesus. Hear me for his sake. I don't even know what i'm doing.

Help me by his spirit. Listen to him, listen to jesus, as he prays for me more than you, listen to me as i pray through him. And you just, Claim. Those little things that are in God's word that apply particularly to what you're doing at the time, when you're praying, You pray for your marriage, quote, passages about marriage.

You don't know them. Yeah, you don't have them memorized. Open your bible. You don't know where to find them. Text your pastor? Don't google. Now, if you remember, Yeah, five or more words from the verse. You can google it'll probably give you a reference, but open your bible and read and pray from your bible.

Okay. But use the word of god as it touches, whatever it is that you're praying about and start forming. The thoughts and phrases from that and if you don't want it to be slow and cumbersome and embarrassing. So you have to text your pastor or look stuff up, memorize more scripture, Take the take the benefit.

Of having memory verses but also take the benefit of moving through. The bible, in your private worship and your family worship. And with your congregation, i happen to know that your congregation moves through a lot of bible. And as you do, so you'll get more familiar with it. It'll do you know, good to say over and over again for decades?

I wish i was more familiar with my bible. Explore your bible. And you will become. More familiar with it. Yeah, some of you might be familiar with. Uh, the grounds and the grove. Uh, the grove and woods behind my house. My children are much more familiar with it than you.

They spent much more time there than you have spent time in your bible. So that you may use god's own words, When you pray, The lord provokes, the next Uh, prayer requests. And he says, My face. Will go with you. And i will. And then, He says. He uses the verb form of noah's name which is the reason noah got that name.

You remember, when? When his father was naming him and he was hoping that this would be the one in whom rest would come. Uh, but here it literally says And he said my face will go with you. And i will knowa you. If, if we're going to use the The verb that way.

That's that's what it says. And he said to him, if your face does not go with us. Do not bring us up from here. For then, how will it be known that your people? And i Have found grace in your sight. Except that you go with us. So we shall be separate your people and i From all the people who are upon the face of the earth.

Now that sort of language, all the people who are on the face of the earth, you can hear how that comes right out of genesis 6, can't you? The lord was going to wipe out all that had the breath of life in it from the face of the earth.

All flesh had corrupted itself upon the face of the earth. God. Instigates this and you say, oh well you know they didn't have genesis yet because moses hadn't written genesis. Well there were books That the lord used to preserve his word by which he Inspired moses to write genesis perfectly.

We know that. Need genesis 5 begins. The book of the generations. Of what came from. And so forth. Uh, there are many Then following statements, the generations of, or that which came from Whomever. It's likely that noah himself had books. Upon. Upon the ark but he's using language. That comes from that account.

And he provokes moses to pray. Because he remembers well happened with noah. No is one righteous, man. But there were eight who were saved with him. The apostle peter by the spirit makes the same kind of argument in his letter. And so now moses is praying. Oh lord. If i know you and i have found grace in your sight and you are using this language with respect to me of finding grace in your sight.

Which by the way, is also genesis 6 language. But noah found favor in the eyes of yahweh. And then it says, noah was a righteous man in his generation. How why? He was not, he didn't find favor because he was righteous. He was righteous because he found favor. In fact.

Um, remember Uh, This wonderful old testament scholar named Alec material. Pretty sure his past into glory because he is quite elderly. Uh, when he came to campus and seminary, but he gave this class on Biblical theology, the old testament and when all of the professors attend to class, That's a clue that you should probably at least audit.

And i remember him saying, The text says, Noah, found grace. But the way that it happens is, Grace found Noah. And you can hear the echoes. Of this finding grace in your sight and those who are with The one who has found grace being saved and separated, from all the people who are on the face of the earth, He's learning to pray or he's being provoked to pray now encouraged in prayer because the lord has Has affirmed that he will do do what he said verse 14 and then instructed in his praying.

By what? By what the word of god. Uh, has told him he's Praying from the bible. Then. The lord encourages him again. You always says to Moses, i will also do this thing that you have spoken for. You have found grace in my sight, And i know you by name.

This is a wonderful encouragement that the lord gives his people over time. One of the ways of growing in faith is just through the experience of coming before. God, in the midst of difficulty, in the midst of uncertainty, the midst of decision, making amidst of trouble and praying. And clinging to him through christ and he carries you through.

And every time that that he answers and helps you, he encourages, you doesn't he to more prayer? And so, one of the things that you and i must do since the lord does not Uh, Speak to us out loud the way he's speaking here to Moses as we must recognize those things in our life.

That are coming by the grace of god that are coming in response to our prayers. That. That we don't become accustomed to grace in a way. That makes makes us overlook what he's doing. That we develop this thankfulness and recognition. That, you know, whenever i do say no to a sin.

That comes by the grace of god. Whenever i do say yes, to righteousness, it comes by the grace of god. And we become. Uh, the more and more encouraged. That the lord is hearing us, he's listening to what we ask for. You know, ask god for little things, lots of them.

He actually commands you to ask for your bread every day. But when you get your bread, thank him for it. And remember, That god listened to you asking him for bread and he gave you the bread you asked for Or, you know, the gluten-free, whatever that isn't bred. Or just meat if you're carnivore or whatever.

But asking god, for little things all the time, You know. Don't think it's too small to say. Dear lord get me through this sermon because i'm exhausted and i'm getting sick. But if you come to the end of the sermon, well know who i'm preaching to now. But just as an example, you come to the end of the sermon and the lord helped you, don't forget to say thank you.

Lord. Forgetting me through this sermon. So that you get in the cycle of realizing that the god who sits and throwned in glory, is listening to the voices of his saints on earth and it makes a difference. So if God already knows what he's going to do, i pray Well, the children know because they know the right answer to why do anything because god said so, But the other answer is, Because this is how God has decided.

That he is going to do things. In fact, he he's writes to us by james as pin. You have not because you ask not. That in that interaction between god and man, he has so much ordained to work in response to our praying and that there are things that he just simply does not do, because his children have not asked for it.

So, He says i will do the thing. You have spoken, you have found grace in my sight, i know you by name, he's had, he's prayed for abrahamic. Or israelite blessing. According to the words of god, he prayed for noeic, blessing. According to the words of god. And now he goes for it all His encouraged.

And he says, please show me your glory. That escalated quickly. But that is the plan of god, the promise of god for us. This is one of a wonderful things when you pray according to the bible. You're always ending up praying better for yourself than you would have by yourself.

Because what the bible tells us about is a god who made creatures that they might have him fellowship with him that they might enjoy him. Enjoy his glory even be glorified together with

him in his son. That this is. This is how everything has. Has begun and the lord actually reinforces that.

How can you say? Show me your glory when the problem with god's presence being with you, just a moment ago, was that if god is present with you, you're going to be consumed. And Moses asks for something and god kind of gives the same answer, doesn't he? Well, if i give you what you're asking for the way you think you want it right now, you would be consumed.

But the answer is a little bit like when phillip says, show us the father, To Jesus. And Jesus says, have i been with you so long Philip and you still don't know me. Place to show me your glory. And the and the lord's answer is, we'll do this whole thing with the Passing by in the cleft of the rock and the hiding.

And And all of those things. But, The great display of god's glory isn't going to be to Moses his eyes. It's going to be to Moses's ears. That yahweh will proclaim his name to Moses. In other words, Have i been showing you my glory so long Moses? And you still don't know me because you can't see him face to face.

Can he? That's the issue here at the end of Exodus 33 he can't see him face to face. But what did we just hear about earlier? And in 33 and verse 11? He heard him. Face to face. This is what the apostle Paul is talking about. When he When he talks about why he doesn't doctor up his ministry and second Corinthians 4.

It says, because it's by the plane, speaking of the truth, the open manifestation of the truth. That god gives the light of the knowledge of the glory of god to shine in men's hearts in the face of Jesus Christ. You want to see Jesus's face? Do not buy a book of idols.

With pictures that claim to be. The second person of the godhead. According to his human nature. The bible says, if you want to see Jesus's face, Read your bible. Listen. To the word of god, preached. Because he declares. Himself to us. And that's how he gives us. His glory shows us his glory.

Is by his word. And he does this because he is sending that word in order to atone for our sin. It says i will proclaim the name of yahweh before you i will be gracious to whom. I will be gracious and i will have compassion on who i will have compassion.

And most of us. Remember those words from romans chapter 9, don't we and the lord explaining Uh election and we want to say, why don't you say anyone? And the lord is saying, don't you understand? It's a miracle that i save anyone. Because grace and compassion comes by the, by the free pleasure of god, that is going to cost him.

The incarnation of his son and and the lord Jesus's enduring, the wrath of god in our place.

And this was the reason for that. Because in that grace and in that compassion, god was giving people to know him. You see the word? In the beginning was the word. And the word was facing god. I know it says with and your english translations. But it is the preposition for facing In fact, that he, that is the part that he repeats there and the first verses, In the beginning was the word and the word was facing god.

In the beginningless word. And the word. What was facing god? And the word was god. The word was in the beginning. Facing god. He repeats it a second time. And then what happens verse 14. The word became flesh and dwelt among us. And what did we behold? We beheld his glory Not of any appearance because Isaiah said there wouldn't be anything unique in his appearance.



What was the glory that was beheld? The glorious of the only begotten of the father. Full of grace and truth. Which, by the way, is the exact same Greek phrase as the Septuagint. The greek translation of verse 6 of the next chapter, when yahweh proclaims his name, and he starts with You know, merciful and gracious and long suffering, but then he says, full of hesit and emment.

This is the glory of god in jesus christ. That is displayed. This is Why if you have seen jesus, you have seen the father. Is because god displays himself as full of steadfast, love, and faithfulness. And then four verses later in john 1. No one has seen god at any time.

Not even moses. Not even an exodus 34. Not even on the cleft of the rock with this hand covering in. But jesus christ, the only begotten of the father Has fully revealed him. He has exegeted fully revealed. Got. Then this is why jesus gives that answer. To philip. In john 14, what Moses is asking for here?

Is what all of creation and redemption is about. And whenever you pray according to the bible, You are praying for a small slice. Of that which will ultimately be fulfilled in answer to the prayer. Show me your glory. Because that's where it's all going. The lord has those whom he forn you.

And he predestined them to be conformed to the image of his son so that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. So that those whom he justified, he also glorified, he predestined us to the adoption as sons. Because he had chosen us that we would be holy and blameless before him and love.

That's the jude. Benediction slash doxology. And, you know, Talk to ryan later about. Uh, the fact that something can be both. Especially if the doxology that is being given. Is the doxology of what we will enjoy in his presence. What Moses asks for? Jesus is the answer to. Yes.

Moses saw glory. Or. Properly heard glory. In Exodus 34. But he saw it more clearly, didn't he on the Mount of transfiguration? And he sees it more clearly now. And he'll see it more clearly at the resurrection. And you dear believe are going to see it with him. And the lord helping, you know what to say in this conversation and knowing what to do about that relationship and helping you against this sin and giving you strength under this burden and giving you wisdom for that decision.

All of these things that you pray for from his word. Are part of the process of him bringing you at last. Into his glory. Reflecting his glory. Enjoying his glory. Conformed to christ. And in christ, So let us learn to pray. From the bible.

And much of what the lord does. He will be doing as you have spoken. As he does the things you asked for. And if you learn to pray, according to the bible, You will be participating. In god's work and god's bringing you. To see his glory. Let's pray.

Father, thank you. For helping. Us your children. Thank you for teaching us. How to pray? Give us more knowledge of your word. Give us more. To have not only our ideas shaped by it. But our desires. Uh, shaped and selected by your word. Make prayer to be the Natural breath the Um, default form of conversation.

In our hearts and our minds. Help us, lord. To pray, according to your word. We ask in the name of him who prays for us, Even jesus. Amen.