

A note from Kathy

Confidence, trust and intimacy are some of the key factors in a close relationship. Moses had experienced all of these with God. It is God's desire that we know him in this way, not merely know about him. It has been said that some people miss knowing God by 18", from their head to their heart. That would be a shame.

Observation

1. What instructions were the people given?
2. What promises did God make to the Israelites in verse 2?
3. How is the "promised land" described here? What image pops into your head when you hear this description?
4. What is about to change for the Israelites?
5. How did God describe the Israelites? This is the third time he says this about them. Notice the mercy of the LORD in verse 3 and verse 5
6. What was the response of the people when they heard God's divine presence would not be with them as it had been?
7. Moses pitched a tent outside the camp. Why did he do this? What would happen there?
8. Highlight the conversation between Moses and the LORD in two different colors. What do you notice about this conversation? Verse 11 is a key verse.
9. What is Moses' question to the LORD? Verse 12
10. What do you see about the nature and character of God in verse 19? Where else have you seen these attributes in the study of Exodus?

Application

1. Are you or someone you love discouraged? Perhaps you too have been responding with an unyielding and stiff-necked heart. Is your situation too hard; have you been waiting for God to move in your mate or your teen or your boss's life? Have you given up on God and tried to handle the situation yourself? God desires to lead you, yet in the difficulty of your situation, you have allowed your focus to be taken off his mighty hand. Now you are grieving because you know God is not leading you in the same way he once had. Rejoice my friend; today can be your turning point. It is God's desire that your hope would be firmly planted in Him. 1 Cor. 10:6-7 and Rom. 15:4 both encourage us to learn from the mistakes and bad choices of those who have come before us. Placing our hope in anything other than the LORD is idolatry. Continue reading in 1 Cor. 10:13-14 and allow God to speak to you and give you hope.

1 Cor. 10:6-7, 11 *These things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry."*

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.

Romans 15:4 *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

1 Cor. 10:13-14 *No temptation (trial or testing) has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. **14.** Therefore, my dear friends flee from idolatry.*

Let me help you unwrap this last part of verse 14. Because God is faithful, you can confidently trust that he will not allow your trial to destroy you. You are precious to God, and because of this fact, we must choose to RUN, not walk, away from every possible plan that is not centered on Him. What will that look like for you today?

2. When the people heard that God's divine presence would not be with them as it had been, they mourned. What can we do to avoid the danger of taking God's presence for granted?

3. **“The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.” How would you describe your relationship with the LORD?**
4. **Is it possible for you to have this kind of intimate friendship with the LORD, or do you need to make some changes in order to experience this? If so, what changes?**
5. **Moses prayed, “If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you.” This is a beautiful prayer. Are you ready to pray a prayer like this? What changes might you see in your life when this becomes the earnest prayer of your heart?**
6. **In verse 16 Moses recognized that what distinguished the Israelites from all other nations was the presence of the LORD. In what way is God’s presence visible in your life?**
7. **Once again Moses interceded for Israel, and in verse 17 we see his prayer pleased the LORD. Do your prayers reflect a heart for others? Is there someone who comes to mind? Why not take a moment and talk to the LORD on their behalf?**