

Sunday, March 27, 2022

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: A Time to Plead - Exodus 33:1 - 23

Series: The Journey of Faith ... 9

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to AGGRESSIVELY SEEK more awareness of the PRESENCE of GOD and the POWER GOD on their life.

Introduction:

Last week's devotional was entitled, "A Time of Warfare" and the text was Exodus 17:8 - 16:

1. A Set Time for Battle
2. The Enemy
3. The Battle
4. The Victory

~ 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11, 13

~ One believer concluded that if the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the first century church 5% would have continued unaware of any change; if the Holy Spirit were withdrawn today 95% would be unaware of any change. From A. W. Tozer

~ As I continue on "The Journey of Faith," I need to ask myself some serious questions: Am I consciously aware of the presence of Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Am I looking to the Holy Spirit to cleanse me and set me apart? Do I invite the Holy Spirit to manifest His power through my life? Have I settled for living the life of faith in the power of my own flesh and ability?

~ In Exodus 33 Moses must make a decision regarding both the presence and the power of God.

1. Redemption by Power:

~ The LORD working for Israel:

- i) Deliverance - Exodus 7 to 14
- ii) Healing at Marah - Exodus 15:22 - 26
- iii) Rest at Elim - Exodus 15:27
- iv) Manna at Sin - Exodus 16
- v) Water from the Rock - Exodus 17:1 - 7
- vi) Victory against Amalek - Exodus 17:8 - 16

2. An Obstinate (Wearisome) People:

~ Exodus 33:3, *"Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."*

~ The people of Israel tended to murmur against Moses and Aaron: Exodus 15:24, 16:2, 17:3; Numbers 14:2, 14:29, 16:41; Deut. 1:27

Numbers 14:22 - 23, *"none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, (23) shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it."*

~ Believers are instructed not to murmur: Philippians 2:14 - 16, *"Do all things without grumbling or disputing, (15) that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (16) holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain."*

~ Murmuring usually reflects an ungrateful heart: Numbers 11:4 - 9

~ Believers are instructed to be thankful: 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *"give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

~ Murmuring and an ungrateful heart tend to lead to impatience: Exodus 32:1 contrasted with Romans 5:1 - 5

~ Murmuring, ungrateful heart, and impatience all tend to lead into false worship: Exodus 32:4 - 6 and Galatians 1:6 - 10

3. Rejecting Any Substitution:

~ Exodus 33:2, *"I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites."*

~ 1 Corinthians 3:1 - 23 teaches believers not to trust their own:

~ Strength (intellect and perception)

~ Organization

~ Wealth

~ Zechariah 4:6 - 7, *"Then he said to me, 'This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power; but by my Spirit says the LORD of hosts. (7) Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain, And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'"*

4. Pleading:

~ Pleading for the awareness of God's PRESENCE. Exodus 33:14 - 15

~ Pleading for God's POWER in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Exodus 33:16 - 17

~ Pleading to behold God's GLORY. Exodus 33:18 - 23

Conclusion:

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God,
fall fresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God,
fall fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me,
Spirit of the Living God,
fall fresh on me.