

Spiritual Growth Develops Your Relationship With God

Ex. 33 Moses took a tent and pitched it outside the camp, and called it the "tent of meeting". This tent was not the sanctuary of the tabernacle that was not made until after chapter 25. Everyone who sought God had to go to this tent **outside** the camp. Moses desired to lead the people into a fuller recognition of their separation from God so that their repentance could be used to show the results of their rebellion. They were guilty of not only disobeying God, that had **rejected Him**. Sin is not just doing evil things. Sin is rejection of a relationship with God. Sin is any behavior, attitude or motive that says God is not worth your friendship. Moses wanted to provide a place of meeting, a neutral ground where the current enemies could now meet together as former friends and save what remained of their feelings for each other.

Ex. 33:7-11, 20 Is the bible contradicting itself? In one place it says they talked face to face, as a man talks with his friend. Another verse says Moses could not see God's face. The bible is telling us that there was no distance between God and Moses. God showed Himself to Moses in the **form and manner** that Moses, as a sinful human could bear. God did not use the usual barriers.

Moses had a special place in the heart of God. He met with God on the top of the mountains, tent meetings and even had a private burial with God as the lone pallbearer. God conducted a lot of business with Moses. Twice Moses spent forty days alone with God. No other human being, besides Jesus Christ, has ever experienced such closeness to the presence of God. God drew close to Moses as leader because He was personally interested in being close to the people.

Ex. 19:6, 1 Peter 2:5-9, Rev. 1:6 and 5:10. God explained the special status of the people to their leader. God was promoting the ex-slaves from the bottom of society to the lofty position of royal priests. The only failure in the system was the majority of the people never believed Him. Unbelief is one of the main problems in the church today. Church slaves continue to reject the responsibility and joy of their new status.

It is clear throughout the entire experience that God was in search of relationships with people. He wants to be close to people. He is willing to do whatever is necessary to be close to them. Most people, even in the church reject a close relationship with Him. He hunts us down because we were made in His image. He seeks to be close to us because we are part of His family.

Moses' failure as a leader was made greater because of his closeness to God **Numbers 20:1-13**. Here again we see the lack of belief in God. Moses did more than what God commanded. God told Moses to speak to the Rock. Moses spoke to the congregation with an attitude of frustration in the process. Notice his words. Shall WE fetch you water out of the rock? These words help to strengthen the doubts of the people in God's provision. Moses then struck the rock twice as if it depended on human effort to make the miracle happen. This faithful servant of God was worn out by the numerous trials. He allowed the trials and tests to overshadow the presence of the glory of God. God punished both leaders by not allowing them to finish their work. God sanctified Himself in this situation because His consistent behavior put all of them to shame. God is good all the time. All the time God is good.

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