

## Teaching for 7-16-08

### A Place To Stand

Moses, forever impacted by the Presence of God, makes two requests of the Lord that should resound in the heart of every believer. In Exodus 33:13 Moses cries out to the Lord, *If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you.* And in verse 17 he pleads with the Lord, *Now show me your glory.* It was not enough for Moses to have a great experience with the Lord and then go off to “do his ministry.” Moses was now totally dependent on being in God’s Presence and in having an ever increasing knowledge of the very person of Jehovah. When Moses asks the Lord *Now show me your glory*, he is really asking the Lord “show me who you really are, show me yourself.” The Lord’s answer to this plea should grip our hearts with anticipation. The Lord says in verse 21 *There is a place near me where you may stand...*(NIV).

### Standing Together

What a bold request on the part of Moses! What a gracious response on the part of Jehovah! Imagine the impact of that statement—*There is a place near me where you can stand!* The great and awesome God of the universe, the high and holy One, graciously said to Moses, *Yes! I will show you my glory, and there is a place for you.* It is indeed a place of grace. The grace and love of God drew Moses to that mountain. The grace and love of God prompted his heart to ask the questions. The grace and love of God prepared a place for Moses to stand, near to Himself. Now, the rest of the story is in chapter 34. Moses went up the mountain and stood in the place near the Lord and in verse 5 it states *Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord [Jehovah].* The Lord not only welcomed Moses to this place but, in amazing love, Jehovah came and stood next to him!

### A Story for Today?

Many might say, “Sure, that’s a great story from way back when, but that does not happen today.” Are you sure? Hebrews 13:8 reminds us that Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. His character never changes nor varies with the passing of time. His heart is still to be present with His people. It may not always look the same, but His heart longs for the same intimacy with us as it did back then. In fact, today we have even greater promises. Hebrews 4:14-16 speaks to this: *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come **boldly** to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.* The word **boldly** has the idea of assurance, confidence, coming freely, openly, with all outspokenness, frankness, and bluntness (Thayer’s Greek Definitions). Here, for us, is a great invitation into His Presence.

## **Expecting His Presence**

But before you dismiss this as only speaking of the Throne of God in heaven, consider what this same Jesus says to us, His people, in Matthew 18:20, *For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.* Can you see the parallel? God invites us to a place to stand beside Him, and then He comes to stand with us. This was not a metaphor that Jesus spoke to comfort his disciples because He was going to ascend to the Father. It is the very heart of God from the Scriptures—God with man. What is *our* expectation? Is His Presence to us simply a theological, conceptual affirmation of truth? Or do we honestly expect God's Presence in our midst? The early Church, and the Church in much of the world today, live in the expectation of God's Presence with them.

## **Right Here, Right Now**

Today, where you are, there is a place near to Jehovah, where you can stand. And when you take your stand in that place with an expectation of meeting Him, He will come and stand with you. This place is not confined to a church or chapel or cathedral. This place could be in your kitchen, in your office, in your car, on a walk around the lake, or in your living room. Do you expect His Presence? Do you anticipate that He will be true to His promise and wherever you are, He will meet you?

*Gracious Lord, we thank you that you desire to stand with us as your people. Thank you that you invite us to take a place near to you, and you will come and stand with us. Let us know the reality of your manifest presence in a new way, even this very day, in this place where we stand. We pray this in the Name of Jesus, our Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.*