

## Camp Exodus

### **When was the last time you pitched your thoughts tent in Camp Exodus 33 and Camp 34?**

It is a wondrous place, this camp. It is a beautiful place to set up camp and contemplate the wonders of the folks who lived there at one time. It is a fine place where lessons learned there are still being taught there - - - in God's word - - - and sometimes in pulpits - - - and sometimes in Weekly Devotions on certain internet websites. There were two primary individuals there, a mortal man named **Moses** and **God** who made **Moses**. There actually was another very large group of folks whom God had set **Moses** over as His representative and leader. This large group of folks was known as **God's people**.

In these two camps (33-34), **Moses** is right in the midst of some simply astounding encounters with **God**. This simple man, born of slave parents, adopted by the daughter of the highest ruler of Egypt in that day, Pharaoh himself, schooled in all the wisdom of higher learning, found himself singularly selected by **God** to deliver **God's people**. He was to take them from slavery to freedom, from Egypt to a land **God** had promised to give to His people.

**God** had assured **Moses** He would lead him all the way, whether it was daytime or night; **God** promised to provide everything they would need for this journey; and **God** simply asked **Moses** to serve as His spokesman and the leader of **God's people** for that time.

Without going into detail, in the first 32 camps (chapters), you can discover many more details of how the call of **Moses** came to pass, how **God's people** came to leave Egypt and set out for what turned out to be a journey of 40 years, led by **Moses** until immediately before they crossed over the Jordan river into the Promised Land.

What I really want to ask you to consider is what kind of relationship **Moses** came to have with **God**. Throughout "Camp" Exodus, you can see how their relationship started, kind of far out (as in the "far" side of the wilderness with a most unwilling **Moses**), and how, after they entered into relationship, their friendship become more and more secure and deep. **Moses** literally grew into his relationship with the Lord.

In Camps 33 and 34 is a most wondrous thing that I want to consider with you. First of all, **Moses** has to be one of the **boldest** friends God ever had! I mean, read this chapter! Normally, **when God speaks, people listen and don't talk** much, except to surrender to Him and worship Him. **But contemplate for a moment this interaction between God and Moses:**

**Moses took the Tent, and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the Tent of Meeting.**

**Moses went out to the Tent,.....**

**Moses entered into the Tent**

**Jehovah talked** with Moses.

**Jehovah spoke** with Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.

**Moses said:** Behold, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people;

**but** thou dost not let me know whom thou wilt send with me;

**and** thou hast said, I know thee by name,

**and** thou hast also found grace in mine eyes.

**And** now, **if indeed** I have found grace in thine eyes,

make me now to know thy way,

that I may know thee,

that I may find grace in thine eyes;

**and** consider that this nation is thy people!

**God said,** My presence shall go,

and I will give thee rest.

**Moses said** to him, **If** thy presence do not go, **bring** us not up hence.

**And** how shall it be known then that I have found grace in thine eyes -- I and thy people? [Is it] not by thy going with us? so shall we be distinguished, I and thy people, from every people that is on the face of the earth.

**Jehovah said** to Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast said; for thou hast found grace in mine eyes, and I know thee by name.

**Moses said,** Let me, I pray thee, see thy glory.

**God said,** I will make all my goodness pass before thy face,

and I will proclaim the name of Jehovah before thee;

and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious,

and I will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

**God said,** Thou canst not see my face; for Man shall not see me, and live.

**And Jehovah said,** Behold, [there is] a place by me: there shalt thou stand on the rock.

And it shall come to pass, when my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand, until I have passed by.

*And I will take away my hand, and thou shalt see me from behind; but my face shall not be seen.*

*and Moses rose up early in the morning and went up to mount Sinai, as Jehovah had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tables of stone.*

*And Jehovah came down in the cloud, and stood beside him there, and proclaimed the name of Jehovah.*

*And Jehovah passed by before his face,  
and proclaimed,*

*Jehovah, Jehovah,  
the compassionate and gracious God,*

*God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger,  
and abundant in goodness and truth,*

*keeping mercy unto thousands,  
forgiving iniquity  
and transgression  
and sin,*

*but by no means clearing [the guilty];  
visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children,  
and upon the children's children,  
upon the third and upon the fourth [generation].*

*And Moses made haste,  
and bowed his head to the earth  
and worshipped,*

*and said,*

*If indeed I have found grace in thine eyes, Lord,  
let the Lord, I pray thee, go in our midst;  
for it is a stiff-necked people;  
and pardon our iniquity and our sin,  
and take us for an inheritance!*

My precious dear friends, hear the Word of God! Here is a completely ordinary person, a man like you and me. Here is a man who spent 40 years of his adult life running from man and God. Here is a man who thought He had carved out a niche for himself, even if it wasn't as "grand" as

it could have been, had he not spoiled his planned ascension to the throne of Egypt upon the death of his stepfather.

Here's is a guy **who knew** about God; here is a man **who believed** in God – but who apparently couldn't handle God's ways – at least for a large chunk of his life. You undoubtedly remember his one time grand effort (in the flesh) to help God liberate His people when he mowed down an Egyptian slave supervisor. That not only landed him in trouble with his father-in-law, but caused him a 40-year desert experience that none of us would probably wish for.

**Yet it is THIS man**, this older man, this “smart yet dumb” man in many ways, whom **God hand-picked** to free His own people. He chose Moses to be greater than MacArthur, greater than George Washington, or anyone you care to name as a liberator. Moses! Moses!

And this is what got me **SO STUCK** in this passage of Scripture this week. Beloved friends, please GO BACK and read that dialogue in Exodus 33 and 34 between Moses and God. **See this man** who initially tried to refuse to even be partnered with God in liberating Israel from Egypt and taking them to the Promised land.

**Hear this man PLEADING with God! Hear this man – asking God for more – going for it all – pressing the case for God's very own people!** Mind you, God wasn't surprised at this; this is what God wanted Moses to do. He wanted someone who would care enough for God's people to cry out to Him on behalf of those very people!

Can you see this? Can you understand this? **God is looking today for people just like Moses! He is looking for those who would stand on the wall of their city, who would stand on the wall of their family, who would stand on the wall of their church, who would stand on the wall of their country, who would stand on the virtual wall of their earth - - - and CRY OUT to God for HIS purposes to come!**

Oh my goodness, my heart is stirred at this! God is into **SO MUCH MORE** than us “getting out of hell and into heaven!” God is passionately looking for someone who would TAKE THE TIME to get to really, really know His heart, and then partner with Him in prayer over His desires.

Moses. God. God's People. Camp Exodus 33 and 34. So much, so much more could be said here. But I will close for now.

Oh His heart, His heart is longing for you and for me to come and cry out to Him on behalf of His own, on behalf of those for whom He died who still do not know Him. Would you come and stand on the wall? Would you come and stand on the wall?