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Prayer Meeting Address by Mr. J.Delves at "Ebenezer"

Clapham on 17th December 1951

Reading: Exodus 33

God evidently favoured His servant Moses above many in that peculiar communion which He indulged him with, speaking with him as it is said here "face to face". And Moses evidently had need of that particular favour thus bestowed upon him, and in the difficulties that attended his future leadership. But that which he here sought so earnestly for was remarkably fulfilled in his case, and it is noticeable that the one thing in regard to leading the children of Israel was the Lord's presence, everything appeared to be secondary to that and indeed an impossible thing. The Lord's presence among them, with His servant, was a testimony that they were a separated people and that Moses had found grace in His sight and this favour the Lord signally bestowed upon His servant.

If we are taught of God and spiritually discerning and lively I believe that this communion will be with us one of the choicest things that we can be indulged with. By it Moses could testify that He had found grace in the Lord's sight, as the Lord had said, "I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in My sight". What an amazing thing for any poor, fallen sinner to find grace in the sight of a God whose glory is beyond all our conception, and what a mystery too that there should ever be a means of communication or contact with that glorious Being without that contact consuming us. "There shall no man see Me, and live", said the Lord to Moses when Moses prayed for further manifestations of the glory of the Lord to him. God said, "No man shall see Me, and live". There is a majesty in God doubtless that would be absolutely overwhelming. Even John fell at the Lord's feet as dead, but yet according to the figure of speech here there is a veiled vision of that divine majesty, wonderful to see, and amazingly transforming in the Person of Emmanuel. God said, "There is a place by Me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock and it shall come to pass while My glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock and will cover thee with My hand while I pass by". God could not, as it were, so manifest His majesty as to overwhelm Moses but gave him a glimpse. Some of you have had a glimpse.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Rock and the Rock being cleft where Moses was put in and shadowed evidently illustrates the wounded and bruised and smitten Saviour whose sacred side was pierced, and here it is that a poor, trembling sinner shelters by faith and beholds the

glory of divine compassion and mercy and grace and goodness. When the Lord passed by His servant evidently it was after this way, "I will make all my goodness pass before thee and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee". So the glory that Moses saw was not that abstract glory, so to speak, that no mortal eye could see, but the glory of His goodness, that is His mercy, His sovereign mercy, and this it is that His people see and it is all they can see, because at times even His goodness is overwhelming when you can rightly contemplate it, why, it breaks your heart. It is of His mercy that we are not consumed and if we are favoured to see the glory of God in Christ in His goodness and His mercy, it is all that we can expect to see. Woe unto us if we see but abstract justice and holiness, but if we see the glory of God, as some of you have, in the person of Immanuel in the blessed atonement, in the righteousness provided by the Redeemer for His people, and in the goodness of God in sending Him, and the goodness and mercy of the Redeemer in fulfilling all that was necessary to His people, who closed the gates of hell and who opened the gates of heaven, it will fill your soul for all eternity. This is the glory we would seek to see.

O how softening are the Lord's mercies in Providence, apart from anything higher or deeper. Have there not been just moments when His goodness, perhaps in going before you in some particular way, in which you may have had a token of His favour, has humbled you in the dust before Him? How wonderfully sweet this is, and real worship can be here. The goodness of God personally manifested, or manifested to a people, is wonderful. "I beseech Thee, show me Thy glory." If we can come to Prayer Meetings and services exercised before the Lord with this prayer, I think we shall have every reason to hope and believe that the Lord will fulfil in that needful measure what He did in His servant Moses when He said "My presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest." Amen

For further copies please write to:

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