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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

Prayer Meeting Address by Mr.J.Delves at "Ebenezer", Clapham
on Saturday evening 26.4.58

Exodus 33

This remarkable portion of Scripture follows upon the idolatry of which the children of Israel were guilty, whereupon the Lord had said that He would not go up with them. This moved Moses to seek the Lord's mercy concerning this and in the reading is a prayer of Moses in three particular things.

There is first of all prayer for guidance. "Now therefore I pray Thee, if I have found grace in Thy sight, show me now Thy way, that I may know Thee, that I may find grace in Thy sight." The Lord had raised up Moses His servant and He had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They had been delivered at the Red Sea, and now the wilderness was before them, the waste howling wilderness. Moses realised very solemnly his need of divine guidance, and that it would be hopeless if the Lord were to forsake them at this point. Therefore he prayed for divine guidance.

Another thing for which he prays is for the Lord's presence. "If Thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence." For this was a point wherein this people should be known to be the Lord's people, and to be separate from all other people upon the face of the earth. "Is it not in that Thou goest with us?" This would be the indication that they were a separated people unto the Lord. And the Lord granted him this, saying, "My presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest." This indeed the Lord fulfilled, although they had many trials and difficulties, and gave some very sad evidence of their own wanderings and rebelliousness. But still the Lord did go with them and fulfilled His promise to them.

There was a third request, that was that Moses might be favoured to see, to have a view of the glory of God. Perhaps some of you can understand this. Moses having been regarded in earlier requests appears to be emboldened and encouraged to seek for even greater things. So having been promised the Lord's presence he ventures to ask that he might see His glory, and this was granted him in some

measure. Evidently he asked for that which, if the Lord had granted it in full measure, he could not have borne. The Lord did give Moses to see His glory in a veiled form, in making His goodness pass before him and in proclaiming the name of the Lord before him, saying "I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." There was a glory that could not be seen, for the Lord said, "Thou canst not see My face for there can no man see Me and live." But Moses evidently had a very gracious revelation of the glory of the Lord.

Here are these particular points and they come into the experience of the Lord's people at different times. We may feel a special need at times of guidance, when in difficult circumstances where we may need to see the Lord's hand, and often have to pray for Him to over-rule all our concerns, to bring us forth by the right way and to favour us with His guiding hand and His presence too. Indeed this covers so much, because although we may have things naturally pleasant to us, if the Lord hides His face from us it can bring a death upon it. There is a peculiar sweetness and a sanctifying influence in the Lord's presence, even if it be a path of trial and difficulty, if heavy burdens press, if extreme circumstances arise; there is a strength in a consciousness of the Lord's presence. It can help you to go on from day to day, leaning upon Him. It inspires confidence and helps you to cast your care upon Him. This is to see His glory too, insofar as one may see the glory of God in Christ in the Gospel and in these spiritual blessings that flow through the merit of the Saviour. Every time some particular blessing is applied to us in our soul's experience we see there the glory of Christ. This is a revelation. May the Lord often grant it to us, then guide us and uphold us in difficult paths and bring us through, pardon every sin and sanctify His dispensations to us. Amen.

Further reading Psalm 25.1-14