

1. Exodus 33: 18 – 23 - is a wonderful portion of Scripture which, points us to the gracious and glorious gospel of GOD. We have seen this in many ways, especially in the typological picture of Moses as the mediator of the people knowing GOD begins with a glorious request. Moses wanted to know GOD's glory, and so he asked GOD to show him. "And he said, 'Please, show me Your glory'".

Moses, having interceded on behalf of the nation, was now assured that the LORD's presence would go with them. The LORD had relented of His intention to mothball His tabernacle plans. Things were back on track; the trek toward Canaan could begin. The LORD would go with them and the nations would see that the LORD was indeed among them. But there was one more matter for which Moses prayed.

Moses begged GOD to show him HIS glory. He wanted to know something of GOD's weightiness, of how "heavy" GOD was. Without the knowledge of GOD, life would be a weight of grief. It would be grievous, sore, and so Moses asked for a revelation of GOD's glory. We should realise that, while the burden of obedience to CHRIST is a light one, it is nevertheless a burden. It is light compared to the burden of not knowing CHRIST, but let us never forget that following CHRIST involves a yoke (see Matthew 11:28-30). We should carefully consider and choose our weight.

2. Psalms 27 - The verse which every Christian believer knows, the beauty of this chapter is the verse 4. Where King David after going through lots of humiliation from his brothers, King Saul, his friends, children and up on all the people of his own nation, running around all of them finally his decision was he thought better to stay in the temple than in his palace.

3. 1 John 1: 1 – 4 - John's careful statement, "the Word was with GOD, and the WORD was GOD" simultaneously identifies the WORD as GOD and describes the WORD as "with" and thus in some way separate from GOD. GOD's word means "he is GOD's self-expression, GOD's thought or mind, GOD's interior word spoken aloud, JESUS not only as the representative of GOD, but also as the representation of GOD: the one whose origins lie uniquely in the very being of GOD."

4. John 21: 20 – 25 - Two important things captured my imagination in this last chapter of John:

Peter was forgiven. Peter is the loud-mouthed disciple who boasted that he would never deny JESUS and then denied that he even knew HIM before dawn of the next day. JESUS forgives Peter in this chapter and commissions him to “feed my sheep.” This is a powerful picture of what JESUS’ ministry is all about: second chances and third, and fourth, etc.

As a side note: my traveling companion and I speculated yesterday about Judas, who also betrayed JESUS. If Judas had not taken his own life, would JESUS have also forgiven and restored him? I think yes.

JESUS told Peter to mind his own journey. This is good advice for all of us. Too many times we base our own sense of self-worth and spirituality by comparing ourselves to others. We either look at those whom we consider super-spiritual and tell ourselves that we are scum. Or, we look at those whom we consider to be slackers and may become smug in our superiority.

Both attitudes are dangerous and unproductive. When Peter did this JESUS scolded him and said (my translation), “Peter, you mind your own journey and simply follow me.”

There it is. That is our task. Follow JESUS. HE is the way. If we see HIM, we see the FATHER. The SPIRIT gives us eyes to see and the strength to follow. Our task is not to judge each other, but to follow JESUS side by side and help each other along the journey.

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