

The New Testament Church  
*Prepare for Change #9 – Reasoning with God*  
July 21, 2024 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I God's Ultimate Goal – a face to face relationship – seeking His righteousness – Mt. 6:33

- A. We are to prophetic, priestly and servant-kings to our culture – 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2
  - 1. In order to do that, we must walk in the light – 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 3:12-18 (the veil is removed)
  - 2. We can now grow in our face to face relationship with the Lord!
- B. A face to face relationship means we understand God's nature
  - 1. The gospels reveal Christ as divine and human - a king, servant, man and God
  - 2. These four faces are revealed throughout Scripture in the Tabernacle door and visions
  - 3. The order (lion - purple, calf/ox - scarlet, man - white, eagle - blue) are situational
- C. We are to know God's ways, and not just His acts (Psalm 103:7)
  - 1. Exodus 33 – knowing the ways of God – relating to God as a friend (but not co-equal)
  - 2. It is a true fear of God – though the people are “stiff-necked” and won't change
  - 3. Why did God say “take off your ornaments”? – Clothing reveals our heart!
  - 4. Israel knew God afar off, from a distance, by watching Moses walk with Him
- A. Joshua – the key to passing the torch to the next generation - Ex. 33:11
  - 1. We must pass the torch to the next generation face to face with God – in His presence
  - 2. **Moses was the meekest (humble) man in all the earth** – Numbers 12:3

III Exodus 32 – Becoming a prophet, priest and king to our present culture

- A. A face to face relationship with God means we can “reason with Him” – Isaiah 1:18
  - 1. v. 1-6 – *the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play...*
    - a. The sins of idolatry (statism), blasphemy, immorality, frivolity (partying)...
    - 1. The people rose up, in the absence of Moses, and got Aaron to do their bidding
    - 2. They were weary of waiting to get to the promised land
    - 3. They were weary of waiting for the return of Moses (and God)
    - 4. They were weary of waiting for direction in worship
  - b. The Lord waited until sin had peaked, then warned Moses of their iniquity (national)
- 2. v. 7-10 – *your people whom you brought out of... Egypt have corrupted themselves*
  - a. *Let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them*
  - b. *And I will make of you a great nation* (appealing to the pride of Moses)
- 3. v. 11-13 – Moses intercedes on behalf of Israel – reasoning with God...
  - a. They are *your* people, O Lord, *you* brought them out of Egypt with great power...
  - b. Why should the *Egyptians* ridicule you that you couldn't bring them in?
  - c. Remember *Abraham, Isaac and Israel... to whom you swore* (covenant)
- 4. v. 14-24 – *So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people*
  - a. Did Moses change God's mind? Was God reasoning with Moses face to face?
  - b. Moses then broke the tablets in anger against the people – so it was a test!
- 5. v. 25-35 – *Yet now, if You will forgive their sin – but if not, I pray blot me out of Your book which You have written.*
  - a. God did punish the people who led the rebellion, yet forgave the repentant
  - b. God is so reasoning with His people today – can we embrace God's face toward our culture, of both judgment and mercy – interceding that God would fulfill His covenant rather than reacting in anger and desiring judgment for others!