

“How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don’t go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth.” Exodus 33:16 NLT

lectio // Exodus 33:7-23

You don’t hear any stuttering now! Apparently Moses and God were having real, honest conversations. Moses was never disrespectful, but he asked God direct questions and God was patient with him. Moses had asked God about someone coming with him to both help and share the responsibility of leading. God told him, “That’s me, I’m going with you.” Moses wanted more of a flesh and blood kinda partner, so he asked God to show himself. Who else asks God to show himself? God said if he did, Moses would die. Again patiently, he allowed Moses to see him from behind. What an experience that must have been! Here, Moses comes to truth. The only reason the world knows or respects Israel (and Moses himself) is because of God’s presence. Even the people didn’t really respect or fear Moses without God’s presence. That’s why Moses continued to wear the veil because the “glow” or physical evidence that the man had been with God was FADING. How do people know we’ve been with God today? Does it show? Is there something physical about us that changes because we’ve been with God? Is it all about a “spiritual” dimension or perception now? I have been in the presence of people that exuded peace and even love, but never power. God wanted to teach Moses something about faith, it was new and difficult to understand, but God was showing Moses how to lead by faith in God, just because God had told him, “I am with you.”

oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

I feel like I quit asking you the hard questions, either because I’ve grown OR I just get lazy about really having hard conversations with you. In some ways I have grown in my faith, but in others I still feel very anxious about things - mostly future. In that way, I feel so weak. The times I felt like you do work everything out, it seems arrogant, like I’m not “working.” Again, worry feels so good because it feels like I’m engaged and working hard to deeply care about something, but it is NOT faith! It is not trust.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root