

Understanding the Foundations

Chapter 5

What Does Salvation Look Like?



For the past few days, I have been pondering the meaning of salvation. We use that term so carelessly. The question is not so much “What must I do to be saved?” but rather, “What does true salvation look like?” I read this incredible passage tonight in Exodus 33:12-18 that uniquely answers that question.

Moses said to the LORD, “See, You say to me, ‘Bring up this people,’ but You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in My

sight.’ Now therefore, if I have found favor in Your sight, please show me now Your ways, that I may know You in order to find favor in Your sight. Consider too that this nation is Your people.”

And He [the LORD] said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

And he [Moses] said to Him, “If Your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not in Your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and Your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?”

And the LORD said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in My sight, and I know you by name.”

Moses said, “Please show me Your glory...”

We are all familiar with the things that Moses did but this passage gives us a unique glimpse into the depth his relationship with God. That one statement, “*Now therefore, if I have found favor in Your sight, please show me now Your ways, that I may know You in order to find favor in Your sight*” totally sums it up. There are only two groups of people in this world, “His” and “Not His.” The chief characteristic of being “His” is not what we do but that our hearts’ cry is that we may be pleasing to Him in all that we do.

Moses, who knew God better than anyone else in the world, cries out for God to teach him His ways so that he could know Him more. Knowing Him is not the same as knowing about Him. Knowing Him is walking in His ways to become like Him. Verse 11 says, that “*the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.*” Moses’ heart cry was for that one-of-a-kind relationship to continue growing deeper and deeper.

When we walk in that kind of relationship with God, we will be totally “distinct” from everyone else in the world. Why? God’s presence in our lives will be obvious as His character is manifested through our lives.

Are we unmistakably “His”? *Does it matter?* In Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus says the most frightening words in the entire Bible.

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and cast out demons in Your name, and do many mighty works in Your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Can you imagine the terror you would feel in that moment... the utter hopelessness?

If you have accepted a cheap, imitation salvation and you have been living your own way to please yourself, you may not be “His”. And even if you are “His” but you have accepted the lie of the enemy that it doesn’t matter how you live, you are both dishonoring Him and throwing away your heritage. Either way, please consider carefully these words of encouragement from Jeremiah. And remember that these words were spoken to people who were living in the terrible judgment they had brought upon themselves by their sin.

*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. **You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.** I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”* Jeremiah 29:11-14 (ESV)

Seek Him as Moses sought Him – with all your heart – and find the peace and fulfillment of living in His Presence.