**BCM Bible Study: February 24/25, 2021**

**Exodus 33:1-34:26: Golden Calf Part 2**

God’s Presence: **Read Exodus 33:1-6**

* What is the problem presented in this section?
* Why is it so problematic that God would not be with the Israelites?

**Read Exodus 33:7-17**

* What is Moses’ plea in verses 12-16? How does he bolster his plea in v.16?
* **Read Matthew 28:18-20**. How is God’s presence related to Jesus’ instruction in these verses?
  + How would you describe your purpose/calling in life? Do you have a sense that you need God to accomplish this purpose/calling? Why or why not?
  + What does it look like practically to live a life that is dependent on God’s presence (Ex. 33:15)?

God’s Glory: **Read Exodus 33:18-23**

* What does is Moses asking for in v.18?
* God promises that he will allow his “goodness” to pass in front of Moses. What exactly this means is unclear, but this section is full of covenant language, meaning that this event served as an assurance that God was committed to what he said he would do. We can see the cross and resurrection in the same way. These are signs of God’s goodness, promises that we too will overcome sin and death. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-23**.
  + In addition to the cross and resurrection, God is gracious to show us his goodness throughout our lives. How have you experienced God’s goodness in your life this past week? How do these moments serve as a sign of assurance of his love for you and presence with you?

**Read Exodus 34:1-7**

What does God reveal about himself in these verses 6-7? What does God say he is like?

* Last week, we talked about God’s situation: “Consider God’s choices at this point in time. He has a people who are prone to disobey, and thus will not show the world what he is like. On the other hand, if he destroys them, this will also mar his glory.” How does God resolve this dilemma in these verses?
* Why does God mention the punishment in v.9? Why is this important?

These verses are the resolution to the golden calf incident. God is saying, “You have sinned and there will be punishment, but I am having mercy on you by not giving you the full punishment you deserve, and we are moving forward.”

* Do you think this fully resolves the tension of the episode? Is God’s justice fully satisfied?

**Read Romans 3:21-26.** What is the message of these verses? (especially v.25)

* Do you feel like you fully appreciate God’s mercy for you? Or do you struggle with either shame or feeling self-righteous?

The Way to Obedience: **Read Exodus 34:8-14**

* Glance down at verses 15-26. What happens in these verses?
* Why is it significant that God focuses on the law right after reinstating his promise?
  + How have you experienced how a feeling of God’s absence can impact you in this way?
  + Look at how God’s nearness is tied to Christlike behavior in the New Testament: **Read** **Colossians 3:1-4,** **Philippians 4:4-7.** Why is obedience important for Christians? How can we grow in obedience?

Challenge: This week, be honest with yourself or an accountability partner abouts ways that you continue to walk in disobedience to God. Instead of stewing in shame and self-contempt, bring these requests to God and praise him for his mercy. **Read Psalm 51** out loud as a prayer. Do this multiple times if you can!