

THE GREATEST BLESSING

During the holidays, many people are caught up running here and there looking for those special purchases for friends and family. But since it is a time that mankind has chosen to celebrate Jesus's birthday, what gift will you be giving Him?

Exodus 33:11 **And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.**

1. Inside the Tabernacle, Moses would talk to the Lord face to face as two friends would. Joshua, Moses servant (we would call him an armor bearer today) could hear them talk.
2. When Moses left the Tabernacle, Joshua would stay behind, obviously perplexed by this scenario.
3. So we have two believers: both are where the Lord chose to meet. But,
 - a. one hears only the sound of the voice of the Lord
 - b. one hears the content of the voice of the Lord
 - c. and yet, both are men of God
3. The point is, two believers can be in church, one will hear what God is saying to them, the other will hear what God said at one time concerning others.

Exodus 33:12 **And Moses said unto the Lord, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.**

4. Notice that the conversation is filled with questions on Moses's behalf.
 - a. not all questions are evidence of having doubt

Exodus 33:13 **Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.**

5. Moses is pointing out a very powerful revelation that would help every believer if they would grasp it and make it their way of life.

a. Moses said shew me now thy way, that I may know thee.

Psalm 103:7 **He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.**

6. God's ways are *not* known by signs, wonders, and miracles.

Psalm 103:7 (NLT) **He revealed his character to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel.**

7. A worshiper doesn't not seek signs, confirmations and proof; worshipers seek to know the Lord.

a. the average christian seeks after signs and wonders

b."what can I get God to do for me?"

James 4:4 (MSG) **4 You're cheating on God. If all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get, you end up enemies of God and his way.**

8. Jesus also made an interesting statement concerning these types of people.

Matthew 12:39 **But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:**

Matt 12:39 (MSG) **39 Jesus said, "You're looking for proof, but you're looking for the wrong kind. All you want is something to titillate your curiosity, satisfy your lust for miracles. The only proof you're going to get is what looks like the absence of proof: Jonah-evidence.**

9. An evil generation is not just about sinners, but it also includes those who know the Lord but go running after other things.

- a. God is saying, "I want you to seek after Me. If you seek after Me, you'll see signs and wonders."

10. Here's what God said about Moses the worshiper when he died.

Deut. 34:10 And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face,

11. A worshiper not only knows the heart of God, worshiper knows God face to face.

Deut. 34:10 (NLT) There has never been another prophet like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.

12. A friend of God is someone who gets to know the Lord face to face.

- a. this was God's desire for Moses and this is God's desire for us today

13. Understanding that God is love and accepting that will remove all the ridiculous ideas that people have about God.

14. Moses had an intimate relationship with the Lord.

- a. Moses was a worshiper

15. A worshiper is a person who draws close to the Lord during their entire lifetime, both in good times and in the bad

16. What is a worshiper? A worshiper is a friend of God.

- a. all born again believers are children of God, but not all children of God are called a friend of God

- b. to be a friend of God is **the greatest blessing** that you can be

17. Most children of God only come to God when they want something. Which is what a child normally does. But Moses was called a friend of God.

- a. Moses said, "Lord, I want to be Your friend. I want to know You more."

- b. Moses spoke to the Lord as a friend

18. When you speak to your friends, you don't ask for "things."

- a. as friends, you come together to fellowship with one another
- b. the same should be true of our friendship with God

John 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

19. You need to understand the difference; a worshiper doesn't need to see the face of God; knowing the voice of God is enough.

John 15:15 (NLT) I no longer call you servants, because a master doesn't confide in his servants. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

20. How do you get to know God? Through His Word! As you grow in your knowledge of the Lord, you become transformed into His image.

- a. just like friendships, worship is an area you should grow in year after year

21. Worship is not a song that you sing, it is a lifestyle that develops as the years go by.

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

22. God took Enoch directly from earth to heaven.

- a. God said, "Would you like to come fellowship with Me in heaven instead?"

Genesis 5:24 (NLT) He enjoyed a close relationship with God throughout his life. Then suddenly, he disappeared because God took him

23. This is the description of a worshiper of God, a friend of God, someone who is intimate with the Lord.

24. Since God raptured Enoch up to Himself, is it possible that at the time of our rapture, one qualification that God may be looking for is friendship?

Matthew 7:22-23 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? [23] And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

25. "I never knew you?" and yet we believe that God knows everything.

Psalm 42:7 Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.

26. The greatest blessing is for you to become more intimate with God, to be a worshiper.

Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

27. If we would all be truthful at this moment, when we sing, we don't worship. We critic, judge, analyze, scrutinize and compare.

a. our lips are here, but our hearts are somewhere else evidenced by boring looks, slouched in our seats and rolling eyes

b. especially if you have been a christian long enough

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

28. See, worship is being occupied with God. It is when your soul has been touched by God in such a way that you desire to be closer.

a. worship is drawing close to a God who has given us everything

James 4:8 (NLT) Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, you hypocrites.

29. A hypocritical heart is waiting for the song service to stir them instead of them stirring God with their songs.

a. it's carnality at in it's best disguise, waiting for a feeling to move them

30. If there was ever a generation marked by carnality, it was the wilderness generation. The children of Israel saw miracles every day in the wilderness for forty years. They didn't need to search for the power of God; it was right there.

a. each morning when they stepped out of their tents, they found manna laying on the ground

b. when they were tired of manna, God gave them quail

31. Even though God supernaturally provided for them every day, they were known as the most carnal generation ever!

a. every time a sign was given, they wanted another one

32. The people complained about needing water and suddenly water came out of a rock.

a. when one need was met, they came into fear and whined about the next

33. But notice, the one (Moses) who called down the manna, the one who called down the quail, the one who opened up the rock for water was a worshiper.

34. Worshipers don't substitute works for worship because worship is developed in secret.

a. this is where you discover His ways

b. we think what we do in public is more important

35. Moses' actions before the people were an outward demonstration of his secret life before the Lord.

Philip. 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

36. Your power to produce for God's kingdom, to do all things through Christ who strengthens you, is determined by your private life with God, studying, learning, praying, knowing.

a. God rewards openly what we do in secret

37. So where do you stand? That depends on how you see God.

Isaiah 6:1-3 (NLT) In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. [2] Hovering around him were mighty seraphim, each with six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with the remaining two they flew. [3] In a great chorus they sang, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty! The whole earth is filled with his glory!"

38. A true worshiper sees God as more than a friend, more than a Father, more than the Provider.

- a. God wants to be seen as more than a need-meeting God
- b. worshipers see God as high and exalted, the train of His robe filling the temple
- c. when you worship God, you join in with the angels
- d. a worshiper sees the Lord high and lifted up, but views himself with humility

39. What's the benefit of being a worshiper?

Hebrews 3:7-11 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, [8] Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: [9] When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. [10] Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. [11] So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

40. For forty years the children of Israel tempted the Lord by constantly griping and complaining.

- a. while the children of Israel stayed in the valley, Moses went up the mountain.
- b. who do you favor, a rebellious Israelite or a resting Moses

Heb 3:7-11 (MSG) 7 That's why the Holy Spirit says, Today, please listen; 8 don't turn a deaf ear as in "the bitter uprising," that time of wilderness testing! 9 Even though they watched me at work for forty years, your ancestors refused to let me do it my way;

over and over they tried my patience. 10 And I was provoked, oh, so provoked! I said, "They'll never keep their minds on God; they refuse to walk down my road." 11 Exasperated, I vowed, "They'll never get where they're going, never be able to sit down and rest."

41. No worship, no rest. Worshipers have a life of rest and peace because they don't need to see miracle after miracle as life goes on.

a. they know His ways, His character

42. A worshiper understands everything they will ever need has already been provided for.

a. a worshipers mentality says, *"Lord, I'm going to spend time with you. You already know what I need and as far as I'm concerned, You've already provided for it. I'm just going to worship You."*

b. look at what God told Moses when He was about to reveal Himself

Exodus 33:21 And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:

43. God is looking for worshipers to stand right beside Him.

a. not for a hand out

Exodus 33:21 And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:

44. God is saying, *"I'm looking for someone who will not only be born again, will not only stand on the Word of God, but will also say, "I just want to spend time in Your presence." There's a place right here beside Me. I'm looking for you to fill that place."*

45. God desires the same for us.

a. we can never arrive when it comes to worship, it's a lifelong process

b. there are always new heights of intimacy we can enter in with God

46. No matter how long we've been born again or how well we know of the Word of God, we can still draw closer.

47. Too many church folks and workers are so caught up in doing what they're doing, they forget the most important thing is intimacy with the Lord Jesus Christ.

a. service is important, but more important is what you do behind closed doors

Psalm 42:1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

Confession: _____

Father, today I want to be in that place by You.
You told me You were looking for a worshiper. I want to be a worshiper.

Here I am. I will be one who worships You in Spirit and in truth.
I commit to make knowing You my highest priority in life.

I enjoy working for You, but I will not offer You my works.
I enjoy seeing the supernatural, mighty signs and wonders, but knowing You is more important.

I seek to know Your ways and not Your works.
As the deer pants after the water, so my soul longs after You.

I desire to worship You, to live at Your feet. I want worship to affect everything that I do so I can take Your presence with me and always experience Your rest.

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