



Then and Now – Glory
Sermon Discussion Questions – April 24, 2022

Scripture Passages:

Exodus 33:11 - 23(NIV84) ¹¹ The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend. ¹² Moses said to the Lord, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’ ¹³ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.”

¹⁴ The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

¹⁵ Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.”...

¹⁷ And the Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.”

¹⁸ Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

¹⁹ And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰ But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

²¹ Then the Lord said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²² When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”

Psalm 19:1–4 (NIV84) ¹The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ²Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. ³There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. ⁴Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,

Exodus 34:8 (NIV84) ⁸ Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.

Psalm 34:8 (NIV84) ⁸Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

John 1:14 (NIV84) ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Colossians 1:27 (NIV84) ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Warm Up

In this series we will talk about words used to describe God.

What are some words that come to your mind first when you describe God?

Discussion

- 1) Toward the beginning of this message Pastor Tom shared this list describing the character of God.

Glory - the God who is grand

Holy - the God who is set apart

Righteous - the God who is pure

Hallelujah - the God who is worthy

Sovereign - the God who is in control

As you read through this list, which character trait do you connect with the most and why?

Which one brings up the most questions for you and why?

- 2) Toward the beginning of the message, Pastor Tom recapped the story of Moses. What are some things that stand out to you about God's character from the stories you know about Moses and the Israelites?

- 3) Excerpt from Pastor Tom's Message:

Whenever a created thing steals our affection for our creator, that's idolatry.

What are some of your reactions to this definition of idolatry? How can you know if something has stolen your affection?

- 4) Read Exodus 33:11-23.

What can you know about God's relationship with Moses from these verses? What can we learn about the glory of God here? How might knowing this impact the way we interact with God today?

- 5) Look back at Exodus 33:14 and 15.

What condition does Moses put on where he will go? What might it look like for us to live with a similar condition in our lives on what we will or will not do?

- 6) When Moses asks God to show him his glory, Pastor Tom shared that Moses is requesting God to throw off restraint."

How does this change the way you understand his request to view God's glory? What do you think might have motivated Moses to make this request?

7) Now take a minute to read Psalm 19:1-4.

What does this passage say about the glory of God? What might it mean for us to see the glory of God?

8) Look back at Exodus 33:19-23.

How does God respond to this request from Moses and how might this encounter have impacted their relationship? How might these verses impact the way we view God?

9) Excerpt from Pastor Tom's message:

Our challenge is to never settle for less than what we were created for. Namely, we were created for a personal relationship with the biggest entity in the universe. And as God's glory is continually revealed we meet his Son Jesus and in Jesus we see the glory of God, in Jesus we see God's face.

What might it look like to make sure we never settle for less?

Next Steps:

"We do not want merely to see [God's] beauty. . .we want something else which can hardly be put into words—to be united in it . . . to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become part of it. At present we're on the wrong side of the door . . .but all the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumor that it shall not always be so. Someday, we shall get in."

C.S. Lewis

Read Colossians 1:27.

What might it look like for God's glory to be seen in us? What is one small step you can take this week to acknowledge or celebrate God's glory?