



This week Pastor Bruce communicated the final message in our Faith Forward Future by joining Moses in Exodus 33 in the most important leadership moment of his life. Moses isn't fleeing from Egypt. He isn't crossing the Red Sea. Instead, Moses is directed by God to go into the promise land with the Israelites.

It's the culmination of his leadership as they stand ready to journey into the covenanted promise given to the people of God. There is only one problem, just one chapter back, while Moses was away hearing from God, the Israelites did what we often are tempted to do when we think God is silent; they built

for themselves a man-made object they could see and touch to make sense of their struggles. This angers God and He commands Moses in Exodus 33:1 to get ready and go into the Promise Land, with one caveat, *"I will send an angel...but I will not go with you because you are stiff necked and I might destroy you along the way"*(v.2-3).

**The context of today's Talk It Over is Moses' two choices:** Take the angel and the blessings, or stay in the desert with God's presence. It's a reminder to us that God allows us to venture into areas outside of His will, but it's not God's best for our life. God is saying, *"You can go here Moses and it looks good, but short-term gratifications do not translate into long-term blessings."*

Moses was faced with the choice of going into the Promise Land without the very one who brought them this far. He refuses to give into this temptation and in v.13 Moses prays, *"If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways, so I may know you and continue to find favour with you. Remember that this nation is your people."* This is the very thing God needed to hear as He responds to Moses' prayer in v.17 with, *"I will do the very thing you have asked."* God was more concerned about Moses' surrendered heart than the promised destination.

Wrapping up the message Pastor Bruce highlights that the depth of our dependence on God will determine our faithful future. It was only when Moses and God's people placed their complete dependence in God that their future was secured because their faith was placed in a God who sees that future.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you from the message today?
2. Like Moses we are often tempted in our faith journey to choose short term gratifications rather than God's best for us. What can we learn from how Moses responded to this temptation? (v.15)
3. Our greatest temptation will be trying to do the work of God apart from the power of God. What are some things we try to do without God's power?
4. It is clear that the underlying fact of Moses' success was his dependence on God. It's the very thing that distinguished the Israelites from the rest of the world. What distinguishing characteristics should we exemplify to a watching world?

Exodus 33 is teaching that the depth of our dependence on God will determine our faith and our future. As we come to the conclusion of this series, spend some time this week and read Exodus 33. Prayerfully reflect on ways that you can strengthen your faith through the example of Moses.