**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Knowing God Intimately |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Exodus 33:11-16 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1874 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Many people know about God, but few people know God intimately.
      1. How sad it will be in the resurrection to meet God face to face and not know Him heart to heart.
   2. Exodus 33:11-16
      1. This passage of Scripture deals with the necessity of knowing God personally.
      2. The key to knowing God intimately is found in verse 13.
         1. This is a prayer of Moses.
         2. In order to know God intimately, we have to know the ways of God.
   3. There are two ways that we can know God:
      1. Casually
      2. Intimately
   4. We can know about God, or we can know God.
      1. To know about God is to know God’s works.
      2. To know God intimately is to know God’s ways.
      3. All that most people know are the works of God.
         1. They know what God does, but they do not know the ways of God or who God is.
   5. Psalm 103:7
      1. Another word for “acts” is “works.”
      2. God made His ways known unto Moses, and He made known His works to the children of Israel.
   6. There are people today who know what God does, but they don’t know who God is.
      1. They don’t know God intimately.
      2. They know about God and see the works of God.
         1. We need to look beyond the works of God and see the ways of God.
   7. There are others who know God intimately.
      1. Does God have favorites?
         1. No, but He does have intimates.
            1. Even in the New Testament, we find that Peter, James, and John were not necessarily favorites of the Lord Jesus, but they were intimates of the Lord Jesus.
         2. How would you like to be on intimate terms with God?
         3. How would you like for God to show you His ways?
            1. Knowing the ways of God will bring peace to our troubled souls, stability to our lives, and victory in our lifestyles.
   8. The difference between knowing God’s ways and His works is the difference between intimacy and infatuation.
      1. A lot of people are simply infatuated with God, just like a boy gets infatuated with a girl.
         1. When a boy sees a girl, he doesn’t know anything about her ways.
            1. He sees her appearance, her style, and the way she handles herself.
            2. He may think he is in love with her, but he is not really in love with her.

A person cannot be in love with someone until they know their ways.

This is infatuation.

* + 1. Many people get divorced for trivial reasons.
       1. This is because they got married for trivial reasons.
          1. It was infatuation; they really did not know one another.
  1. In today’s message, we will look at three aspects of knowing God intimately.

1. to know god intimately is the way of tranquility (exodus 33:14)
   1. It will give us rest.
   2. Exodus 33:14
   3. If we only know God casually and only see His works, then we will never have rest.
      1. We will constantly be pushing the panic button.
   4. The children of Israel were constantly worried and murmuring because all they saw were the works of God.
      1. They saw God perform His miracles.
         1. They saw God open the Red Sea.
            1. Exodus 14:21-22
         2. They saw God give manna in the wilderness.
            1. Exodus 16
         3. They saw God give water out of a rock.
            1. Exodus 17:3-6
      2. They did not know the ways of God.
      3. Hebrews 3:10-11
         1. God was grieved by this generation of the children of Israel.
            1. They did not know His ways, and they would not have His rest.
   5. Psalm 103:7
      1. If all we see is what God does and do not know Him intimately, then we will never have rest.
   6. Exodus 33:14
   7. The children of Israel were doing fine as long as the works of God pleased them.
      1. But when God didn’t do things just the way they thought that He ought to, then they panicked.
         1. Our ways and God’s ways are different.
         2. We will never have peace until we understand the ways of God.
            1. God’s ways are often confusing to human wisdom.

The Apostles Peter and James were both arrested and put in prison for preaching the Gospel.

James was beheaded, but Peter was delivered miraculously out of the same prison.

Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, and 3,000 souls came to Christ.

Stephen preached, and he was stoned to death.

If all we see are the works of God, then we will be hopelessly confused.

If we don’t have a deeper insight into the ways of God, then we will be pushing the panic button all the time.

We will never rest until we know God intimately.

* 1. To know the ways of God is the way of tranquility.
     1. God says that He will give us rest when His presence goes with us.
        1. Exodus 33:14
     2. There is nothing that will bring rest to a troubled soul like an intimate knowledge of God.

1. to know god intimately is the way of stability (Exodus 15)
   1. The difference between Moses and the children of Israel was that the children of Israel were fickle.
      1. Fickle Christians are infatuated with God.
      2. When God parted the Red Sea, the children of Israel sang the song of Moses and of the Lamb.
         1. Exodus 15
         2. They were leaping, dancing, and praising God for what He had done.
      3. Three days later, they were in the wilderness without water, and they were murmuring and complaining.
         1. They wanted to go back to Egypt.
         2. They had been singing the song of Moses and the Lamb, and now they were criticizing Moses.
            1. They were fickle.
   2. If we don’t know God intimately, then we will not be stable Christians.
      1. We will be just like the children of Israel.
      2. Sometimes we are up, and sometimes we are down
         1. Because all we see are the works of God without knowing the ways of God.
         2. We don’t know the heart and mind of God.
   3. There were those who followed the Lord Jesus when they saw His works.
      1. John 2:23-25
         1. The words “believe” in verse 23 and “commit” in verse 24 are the same word in the Greek language.
            1. They believed in Jesus, but Jesus didn’t believe in them.
         2. Jesus knew that they were just miracle-mongers and didn’t know His ways.
            1. All they saw were His works; they saw the miracles that He performed.

They didn’t see the crucifixion.

They didn’t see the coming cross.

* + 1. John 6:1-14
       1. Jesus fed the 5,000, and crowds of people followed Him.
       2. But when He talked to them about deeper spiritual principles, they left Him.
          1. John 6:26-67
          2. They were fickle and had no stability.
  1. If we only see the works of God when everything is fine, then when adversity and difficulty come, we will be asking, “God, why did You do this? How did You allow this?”
     1. We will be fickle because we don’t know God intimately.

1. to know god intimately is the way of necessity (Exodus 33:1-3, 15)
   1. Why did Moses pray this prayer? What had happened?
      1. Exodus 32:1-14
      2. Moses had gone up on Mt. Sinai, and God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.
         1. He also gave Moses the plan for the tabernacle.
      3. Moses came down from Mt. Sinai and saw that Aaron had made a golden calf, like they had worshiped in Egypt, for the children of Israel.
      4. God’s anger burned against them, and Moses was frightened for his people.
         1. Moses knew that God had every right to eradicate them.
         2. But Moses interceded for the children of Israel.
            1. Only a person who knows God intimately can be an intercessor.
   2. Exodus 33:1-3
      1. In answer to Moses’ intercession:
         1. God would send His angel before them to drive out the inhabitants of the land.
         2. They would have protection and victory.
         3. They would have a land flowing with milk and honey.
            1. But God would not go with them.
   3. Exodus 33:15
      1. Moses said that if God was not going with them, then he was not going.
         1. Moses did not want Canaan without God.
         2. He did not want the blessing without the blesser.
         3. He did not want the victory without the victor.
         4. He did not want the land without the Lord.
   4. We can have provision and protection and still not have God’s presence.
      1. This should frighten us.
      2. A lot of people just settle for eternal security.
         1. They say that they are saved and going to Heaven, but they do not want the intimate presence of God.
      3. Many people would have taken what was offered to Moses and not have been bothered that God’s presence was not with them.
      4. Do not think that because we have the things we want that we know God intimately.
         1. On another occasion concerning the Israelites, God gave them the desire of their hearts and sent leanness into their souls.
            1. Psalm 106:15
         2. The problem for many of us is that we are just doing fine.
            1. We may live in a beautiful home.
            2. Our children may be healthy.
            3. We have a job, and we are putting money in the bank.
            4. Our retirement looks good, and we are satisfied.

We live in a prison of prosperity and think that everything is fine.

* + 1. So often we say that money will not satisfy.
       1. The problem is not that money does not satisfy.
          1. The greater danger is that money does satisfy.
    2. It is a very dangerous thing to be satisfied with the things of this world and have Canaan without the presence.
  1. To know God intimately is tranquility, stability, and necessity.
     1. Don’t take prosperity, victory, a land flowing with milk and honey, or anything else as a substitute for knowing God intimately.
  2. St. Augustine, one of the early church fathers, once asked this question:
     1. If God were to come to you and offer you anything you wanted, every pleasure you desired, that you would live forever, but you would never see His face, would you take that proposition?
        1. If you would say no to that, then you would have the pure love of God.
           1. This would mean that God means more to you than this whole world.
           2. That’s what Moses decided.

He didn’t want Canaan without God.

He didn’t want the angel and the victory.

He didn’t want milk and honey.

He wanted God.

* 1. God is not satisfied with us and is not finished with us until our chief desire is God and God alone.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. You will not know God intimately by human reason.
   2. You know God intimately by directly dealing with God.
      1. This is why God kept bringing the children of Israel into situations.
         1. Why did God bring them to the Red Sea?
         2. Why did God bring them to a place where there was no water?
         3. Why did God bring them into difficulty?
            1. So that they would have to deal with God.
      2. God wants you to come face to face with Him.
         1. When the Israelites came to the Red Sea, the only way they could turn was to God.
   3. You cannot know God by hearing sermons about knowing God or reading books about knowing God.
      1. You cannot know anybody that you do not spend time with.
      2. To know Him is to love Him.
      3. To love Him is to trust Him.
      4. To trust Him is to obey Him.
      5. To obey Him is to be blessed.
      6. To be blessed is to be a blessing.
         1. It all begins with knowing Him.
   4. If all you see are the works of God, then you are just infatuated with Him.
      1. When the bad times come, off you will go.
      2. But when you know God, when you know the ways of God, when you know the heart and mind of God, and when God speaks to you face to face as He spoke to Moses, it is wonderful.
         1. This is knowing God intimately.
   5. The first step in knowing God intimately is to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
      1. It is to ask Him to come into your heart, forgive your sin, and to save you.
   6. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   7. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16