

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8

I AM Compassionate and Gracious

After a miraculous deliverance from Egypt and having walked through the Red Sea on dry land, the Israelites decided to make a golden calf and worship it, instead of I AM, who delivered them out of their bondage. Frustrated with the rebellious and stubborn Israelites, Moses sought God. He knew the only way that he could lead Israel was if the presence of God went with him. And so the one with whom God spoke face to face, asked God to show him His glory. Moses was asking to know who God was, to experience the very nature of God.

Exodus 34:6-7 "And He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished; He punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

In response to this revelation of God, "Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. 'Lord, if I have found favor in your eyes, then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance.'" (v. 8-9)

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8 NIV)

While still a sinner, Christ died for you. What love! What grace! What compassion! This is who God is! God is compassionate. God is gracious. This is who He is. And our response should be the same as Moses, to bow in worship before God, to ask forgiveness and choose to belong to God and His family. Then God's love, grace and compassion become the fuel to do all we are called to do, knowing that His presence will always be with us.

Additional Reading: Exodus 33 & 34, Psalms 103, 111, 145, Ephesians 2:1-10

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