

THE POWER OF HIS PRESENCE

ser3994 Presents or Presence, Pt 1

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I. POINT OF INTRIGUE (The Hook)

A. Good Morning Church! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Angelina Moore-Johnson. I serve on the Welcome Team and as Ministry Leader of GCCC's addiction recovery group, Chain Breakers.

B. Today we begin a new Sermon series for the month of December, "*Presents or Presence!*" What an awesome topic! It's so easy in the month of December to get wrapped up in the busyness of the Season that we often forget what the Season is truly about! The title of this message is, "The Power of His Presence!" How many of you would like to experience the Power of His Presence? I know I would!

C. Let us pray ...

D. Now the only thing I fear today is that clock on the wall so let's get right to work!

II. OUR TEXT (The Book)

A. The Word that God gave me for today comes from the Book of Exodus. We will be starting in Chapter 32 and move into Chapter 33. What's going on at this point in the text, is Moses had gone up to the mountain and was receiving the Ten Commandments. When Moses didn't come back quickly, the people feared something had happened to him; so, they made an idol in the form of a Golden Calf to worship.

God told Moses what was happening while he was on the Mountain Top. Moses came down from the mountain, and in anger, threw down the two tablets and broke them. But the story does not end there.

B. In this text, Moses becomes a beautiful picture of Jesus, forgiving and interceding to the Father for his people.

EXODUS 32: 30-35

³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

³¹ So Moses went back to the LORD and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made

themselves gods of gold. ³² But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.”

³³ The LORD replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. ³⁴ Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and **my angel will go before you.** However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin.”

NOTE! Take note here that God tells Moses He will send an angel to go with him.

³⁵ And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

NOTE! A lot of people think idolatry is worshipping a false God. That’s correct, but it is also worshipping ANYTHING other than God whether it’s work, money, relationships, drugs or alcohol. Anything that we are thinking about more than God can be an idol.

I have heard so many people this year, blame Covid on the devil, but when you look at this text, it was the LORD who sent a plague because of the peoples’ sin of idolatry. Look at the state of our country, God is being removed from everything! This text makes you think. But here is the good news, Gods Presence is with His people even in a Pandemic! **His goodness is available, His grace is available, you just have to reach for it and take a hold of it!**

EXODUS 33: 1-7

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up to the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’”

2 I will send an Angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. **3** Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way.”

NOTE! Again here, God tells Moses He will send an Angel to go with him. I don't know about you guys, but if God told me He was sending an Angel to go with me, I'd be thrilled! Angels are powerful! It only took 2 Angels to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, so if God said I'm giving you an Angel, I would be like COOL! But let's see what Moses has to say.

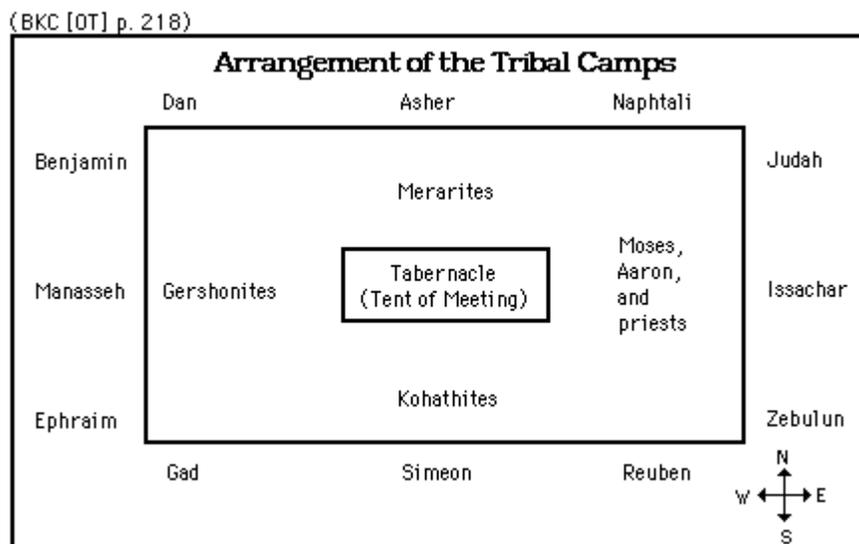
4 When the people heard these distressing words, they began to mourn and no one put on any ornaments. **5** For the LORD had said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites, ‘You are a stiff-necked people. If I were to go with you even for a moment, I might destroy you. Now take off your ornaments and I will decide what to do with you.’” **6** So the Israelites stripped off their ornaments at Mount Horeb.

7 Moses took his tent and pitched it **outside** the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass *that* everyone who sought the LORD went out to the tabernacle of meeting which *was* **outside** the camp.

C. Here is a picture of the placement of the Tribes.

(show photo)

What I want you to notice of was before this point, The



Tabernacle, or Tent of the Meeting was located in the Center of the tribes. This is so important, because before Jesus came, God's Presence was in the Tabernacle. His Presence was at the center, or it was in the middle, let's say of their lives. However, because of their sin, Moses now takes the Tent of the Meeting and places it OUTSIDE the camp!

D. If I say nothing else you hear today this is the point, I want you to walk away with.

III. HAVE YOU BEEN SETTLING FOR GOD BEING ON THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR LIFE? (The Look)

A. How far away from God are you right now??

Don't settle for God being on the outside of your life!!

God calls us “Chosen!” To choose means to decide. It’s up to us to choose God and give him first place and priority in our lives! **We get His Presence when we give Him Priority!**

EXODUS 33: 8-11

⁸ So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, *that* all the people rose, and each man stood *at* his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. ⁹ And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood *at* the door of the tabernacle, and *the LORD* talked with Moses. ¹⁰ All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing *at* the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man *in* his tent door. ¹¹ So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

B. Let’s look at friendship for a moment.

Wikipedia defines friendship like this- **Friendship** means familiar and liking of each other's mind. People who are **friends** talk to each other and spend time together. They trust one another and also help each other when they are in trouble or are hurt. **Friends** are people that can be looked up to and trusted.

People who are friends talk to each other and spend time together. Its reciprocation. One talks and the other listens, and vice versa. We can’t approach God like Santa Claus, give me give me give me. Think about friendship!

Have you ever had a friend that was only a taker? I have, and I'm not friends with those people anymore!

When is the last time you asked God ...

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU TODAY? Who can I be a blessing to today? "God use me, Send me, Here I am!" (Isaiah 6:8)

If you really want to get into the Presence of God and see His glory, start serving him. Jesus is our example and He became a servant. I have to tell you guys. This month we are focusing on Service! I have never experienced Gods presence and seen His glory more in my entire life than I have in this past year while serving Him through Chain Breakers!

I encourage you to ask God, "Lord, How can I serve you?"
We get definite ACCESS to His Presence when we make ourselves AVAILABLE to His Purposes!

C. How do we talk to God? Prayer

How do we hear from God- Meditating on His word and spending TIME in our Bibles!

Yes Time! People have said to me, I wish I had a relationship with God like you do. I always tell them; I didn't get it by wishing!! If any relationship is going to grow you have to INVEST TIME into it!

Another thing people have said to me is I am so busy. How do you find the time? My thinking is totally opposite, I have so much to do I can't afford not to spend time with God because I know I can't get done what I need to without Him!!!

People put Time into the things they value! People will put more time into a job they love because they value it. People will spend a lot of Time at the gym because they place a lot of value on looking good! So, my question to you is, "How much do you value your relationship with the Lord?" We can say "More than anything" all we want, but are our actions lining up with our words?

The Power is in His presence! We get access to His Power when we spend Time in His presence!!

Picking up at Verse 12 of Exodus 33

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.

REMEMBER! God has already told Moses twice that He would send an angel to go with him. Trust me, Moses hasn't forgotten that. I know I wouldn't forget being told TWICE that I am getting an Angel. But Moses is not satisfied with that! He knows He needs the Presence of God to do what He needs to do because the Power is in the Presence!! Peace, Joy, Strength, Courage, this list goes on, these things are found only in Almighty God. We need His Presence to Access these things!

¹²You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' ¹³If 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."

¹⁴The LORD replied, **"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."**

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

NOTE! Essentially, Moses says to God, "If you're not going, I'm not going." This is the attitude we need to have!! God if you're not going I'm not going, if You're not in it I'm not in it!

¹⁶How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

¹⁷And 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."**

¹⁹And 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."

D. God is saying in this text and in our lives

1. GET INTO MY PRESENCE AND I'LL SHOW YOU MY POWER

2. GET INTO MY PURPOSE AND I'LL SHOW YOU MY GLORY!!!!

God sent me here today to tell you DON'T PUT GOD ON THE OUTSIDE, not this Christmas season, not ever!

IV. INVITATION

A. We read in Exodus 32 today *"If so, blot me out of the book you have written."* Are you in that book? Do you know for sure that you are going to heaven?

Christmas time always has us talking about gifts! Well God gave us all a gift! And here it is!

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Speaking of presents, I'd like to Present Jesus Christ to you!
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

The best gift you will ever receive is the gift of eternal life, the free gift of Salvation that comes through Jesus Christ alone

Have you received the Gift of our Lord Jesus Christ yet?

B. The way to salvation and HOW to make Jesus our Lord and savior is as easy as *ABC*:

Admitt– your sins have separated you from God. (Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.) (Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

C. *THOSE OF YOU* who prayed with me today, and *received* Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, please fill out the white envelope in front of you, and check

the box that says [FTD](#), and place in in the offering baskets as you leave the Church. We'll be in touch with you, giving you a few pointers on how to get started in your NEW WALK with the Lord.

If you are watching online, and prayed with me please...

**Text: Pray to 62488 or
Email: Bruce@GCCCPRAY.COM**

D. Church family may His Presence go before you, around you, and surround you all the days of your life AND may you know that He is For You because He IS!!! God Bless you!!!

ser3994, *The Power of His Presence (Presents or Presence, Pt1)* 2461 words w/o Budget (approximately 18.9 minutes with Invitation and no HG detours). by Angelina Moore-Johnson