**Encountering God’s presence: Exodus 33:7-34:9** NMBC Oct 20th, 2024

**Questions for Reflection and Discussion**

Last week’s message reminded us that the tabernacle was an expression of God’s commitment to live among and with His people.

**Encountering God’s presence by seeking Him. Read verses 7-11**

see also Hebrews 11:6, James 4:8, Jeremiah 29:13

Notice that the tent is called “the tent of meeting” making explicit that its purpose is God’s presence among His people for the sake of a relationship.

* Who was able to use the tent of meeting? For what purpose?
* How did Moses make use of the tent?
* Why do you think Joshua would stay behind in the tent? And why do you think this is noted?

**Encountering God’s presence through prayer. Read verses 12-18**

These verses give us a summary of what Moses talked about with God.

* What was Moses praying for? How did Moses prayers deepen his intimacy with God?
* What could we learn to deepen our own intimacy with God in prayer?

**Encountering God’s presence through His word. Read verses 33:19-34:9**

Moses asks God to show him His glory and God responds by telling Moses His face cannot be seen. Instead, God proclaims His name and His character in words, which Moses recorded for us.

* What words does God use to describe Himself to Moses? (see particularly verse 33:19 and 34:6,7)
* Why do you think God chose this way to reveal what He is like and what does this mean for us today?
* What impact do you think it would it have on a person’s life to really believe what God says about himself in these verses?
* In what ways did Jesus’ life and teaching show these same qualities?
* Exodus 34:7 introduces what could be described as a tension between God’s mercy and God’s justice. How does Jesus’ death on the cross resolve this tension? (see Romans 3:25,26, 2 Corinthians 5:20, 1 Peter 3:18)

**In summary**: What has God impressed on you from this passage that can help you grow in your intimacy with God?