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# COUNT ME IN GOD'S PRESENCE

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## GOD COUNTS YOU IN

God is not looking for a generation of maybes or interested. God is looking for a generation of people who are committed, sold out, going!

As a church we are looking for all of us to be committed, not sitting on the fence but a people collectively and at a very personal level, putting our hands up saying, “*count me in*”.

Because when you say “*count me in*” we know we can count on you.

## EXODUS 33

### Background

In the previous chapters of Exodus, God has:

- + Called Moses to follow Him
- + Led the Israelites out of the Egyptian Captivity
- + Initiated the Passover festival
- + Brought them through the Red Sea, defeating Pharaoh's troops at the same time
- + Brought them to the foot of Mount Sinai, where He has revealed Himself, and has given the law
- + Given them extensive and detailed plans for the building of the Tabernacle – a portable temple that we will come to soon

Chapter 32: The Golden Calf Incident

Chapter 33: The Tent of Meeting

Exodus 33:7 So, the pillar of fire/cloud, that led the Israelites out of Egypt, that showed them when to move and when to stop, would come and rest at this tent.

## **GOD'S DIRECTION**

Exodus 33:1-3 – God's command to go into the land

For Moses, at least, this became a deal breaker

His presence becomes the central draw to being counted in, the central factor for holding us together, and the means by which His plans are fulfilled

## **GOD'S PRESENCE**

Exodus 33:12-15 – Moses questions God

This dialogue happens in the context of God's covenant.

The covenant was focused around being blessed by God, in order that the nations of the world would be blessed.

*“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” Exodus 19:5-6*

*“For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?” Exodus 33:16*

## **GOD’S RESPONSE**

And the LORD said to Moses, *“This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name.” Exodus 33:17*

God restates the covenant to Moses

Exodus 34:10 *And he said, “Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the Lord, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.”*

In the face of God’s faithfulness and covenant commitment:

*And the LORD said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” Exodus 33:17-18*

Are you willing to be counted in, and dedicate yourself to following and responding to God’s presence?

## Discussion Questions

1. Moses' desire to follow God's presence is based in God's self-revelation to Moses and the people of Israel. How has God revealed Himself to you personally?
2. What impact has this had on your desire to obey and follow Him?
3. Simple religious observance seems to sometimes be at odds to the direct leading of God's presence – the difference between replicating God's works, as opposed to knowing God's ways. Have there been times in your life where you've been in either space?
4. What have those times been like, and what was the fruit of those seasons?
5. Moses speaks with God plainly, not in visions and dreams, in the tent of meeting. How has God spoken into your life?
6. What does obedience to the voice of God look like for you?
7. How have you experienced God's presence?
8. What would it mean to echo Moses' cry that there's no point going anywhere or doing anything without God's presence going with you?
9. What would or could change about your daily life if this was your heart's prayer?
10. If God has counted you in, what would your act of obedience – your 'count me in' action – look like?
11. Spend some time recalling the promises of God, the testimony of His leading and presence and His faithfulness. Let worship be your response to this sharing and spend time praying for one another that the bold response of Moses would be their response.