

Faith Comes by Hearing Bible Study – 2.18.26 (For 2.22.26)

First Reading: Exodus 33:17-23

¹⁷And the Lord said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name. ¹⁸Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” ¹⁹And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The Lord.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show

mercy. ²⁰But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” ²¹And the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²²and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

1. In this passage, Moses is found pleading with God, asking Him to go with Israel. As we come to these words, God answers Moses' plea in an intimate, personal way. It's because God knows Moses "by name." What do you think this means?
2. After experiencing God's presence, Moses asks to see God's glory. What is Moses asking for? How does God's proclamation of His name (His character) in verse 19 define His sovereignty and mercy?
3. What is the significance of Moses seeing God's "back" rather than His "face"? How does this demonstrate the balance between God's approachable goodness and His transcendent, awesome power?

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:14-21

¹⁴I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶I urge you, then, be imitators of me. ¹⁷That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in

every church. ¹⁸Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. ¹⁹But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power. ²⁰For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. ²¹What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?

1. Paul speaks to the Corinthians with a level of tenderness, addressing them as a father would to children. What is Paul's purpose for this tone with the Corinthians?

2. What does it mean for Paul to instruct them to "imitate" him, and how does the ways other guides were instructing them?
3. What does it mean that the kingdom of God is not in talk but in power (v. 20)?

Gospel: John 1:35-42 (NIV Translation)

³⁵The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

³⁷When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

³⁹"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was

staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

⁴²And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

1. These words speak of the opening of Jesus' ministry. This begins with John making a statement about Jesus. Who does John call Jesus? What is the significance of this and how does it define Jesus' ministry?
2. Two of John's disciples leave to follow Jesus, and as they do, Jesus asks a pointed question. What is the significance of Jesus' question? How does His invitation reveal His approachability and divinity?
3. What does the invitation to "come and see" suggest about how people can get to know Jesus? How does that play out as Andrew offers the same to his brother?