

Why Stay On The Porch When You Can Run With The Big Dogs?

Exodus 33:7 And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, *that* every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which *was* without the camp.

8 And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, *that* all the people rose up, and stood every man *at* his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle.

9 And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood *at* the door of the tabernacle, and *the LORD* talked with Moses.

10 And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand *at* the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man *in* his tent door.

If we were to take a more in depth look into the particular chapter of Exodus, chapter 33, we would find a few very interesting things.

Chapter 33 starts off with God being angry with the children of Israel, because in the previous chapter, they made idol Gods out of gold while Moses was up in the mountain getting the 10 commandments from God.

So God tells Moses, “You go and tell those unfaithful Israelites that I am going to consume them with fire for their sin!”

Moses prays

Moses moves the tabernacle out of the middle of the camp of the Israelites.

This was God’s way of saying I’m tired of the way that you’re living, I’m going to move my presence out of camp, out of what you’re use to, and those that still want to seek me, can come to where I am.

Getting outside the box...

We put God in a box sometimes.

We allow our lack of faith to place limits on God.

God wants to change the way that we think about things. He wants to break out of our little box.

Feeding the Multitude...

He asked the disciples, what do you have to eat?

They replied, we only have 5 loaves and 2 fish

They were thinking about what they didn't have

But God said, I don't care about what you don't have, Just give me what you do have.

God changed the way that they thought that day, and He is doing that same thing to His church today.

He's doesn't care about what we don't have, He cares about what we do have!

God said, I'm going to make you go outside your comfort zone.

That made it a little less convenient for everybody to worship.

But do you think that stopped Moses from going to the tabernacle and seeking God?

Moses was Da man! He was the Big Dog.

And everyday Moses would get up and go seek God.

Everyone else would come just outside of their tents, or the equivalent of what we would call a porch, and watch, as Moses went to seek God.

They would see, that when Moses went inside of the tabernacle, the cloud of God's glory would descend, and there God would talk to Moses.

We have all heard this before, but here is a little something to challenge your thinking.

The Bible didn't say that Moses talked to God, it said that the Lord talked to Moses.

Now that doesn't sound quite like a lot of our prayer meetings.

I believe that sometimes God feels like I do when I'm talking to a very opinionated talkative person.

He can't get a word in edgewise.

We're too busy asking for stuff, but God wants to say, if you would just listen instead of talking for a minute I would give you something that will change the way you think!

God talked with Moses. And Moses listened. While everyone else watched.

They were content to sit on the porch while the Big Dogs did their thing.

Back then not just everybody could enter into the Tabernacle and experience God in all His glory.

There was a veil of separation that had been placed between God and the common man, or the little dogs.

But the day came when God said, I'm not going to separate my glory from my people anymore.

I want them to feel my immediate presence.

I want them to know what it is to....

When Jesus died on the cross, the veil in the Temple was rent in twain.

That was God saying I'm tearing down all walls of separation.

That was God saying I want you to get off the porch and come experience me like Moses did.

I want every one of you to grow up, from being a little dog to a Big Dog.

Big Dogs:

We marvel at all the stories of what happened at Pentecost
And of the stories of men in the presence of God
We marvel at David, Daniel, Moses, Paul, John the Baptist

But God wants us to get off the porch and run with the Big Dogs!

John the Baptist – greater than he.

Jesus visited somebody's porch one day. But he didn't go just to sit and watch the sun go down.

He went to challenge somebody's thinking.

John 10:23 records...

23 And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch.

24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

30 I and *my* Father are one.

Jesus said, you need to get off of this porch and follow me!

You need to run with the Big Dogs.

You know why people sit on the porch?

To relax, and reminisce.

It's easy to find ourselves sitting on the porch or pew of our church, and think about what use to be, but I challenge somebody tonight, Get up and run with the Big Dogs!