

“DRAWING NEAR TO GOD”

Moses and His Quiet Time

Exodus 33:7-34:10, 27-35

INTRODUCTION

The story is told of a little boy who was being beaten up by a bully every day on his way to school. The boy's friends told him to go to school a different way. But the bully found out about that route, met the boy on his way to school, and beat him up.

Another friend advised the boy to carry a stick to school. He carried a stick one day, but the bully took the stick away from him and beat him with it. Nothing this boy tried worked to get rid of the bully.

One day as the boy was walking to school, the bully jumped out and clenched his fist. But instead of being afraid, the boy said, “Come on, I'm ready. I'll take you right now.”

The bully couldn't believe this little kid had become so brave. But as the bully got ready to pounce on him, the boy's father stepped out from behind a bush; he was about 6'10", 275 pounds. The bully said, “Uh-oh.”

The moral of the story is, stay close to your Father. The closer you are to God, the more that bully the devil will leave you alone. That's why the word of God tells us, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (James 4:8). This is the part of the Bible's formula for realizing greater intimacy with God.

And that intimacy is key to growing into the believer God wants you to be. After all, you cannot avoid worldliness and beat the devil at his game if you're maintaining a long-distance relationship with God. You cannot be a part-time Christian, an “S.M.O” (Sunday Morning Only) saint, and be the maturing Christian God wants you to be.

The closer you draw to God, the more like Him you are going to become. You can't help but be affected, the way you can't help but sweat if you're out in the hot sun. Greater closeness to God produces in you a greater likeness to Him.

-Taken from The Perfect Christian by Tony Evans

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Try to define what a “Quiet Time” is as a group. Spend some time describing how you do your own quiet times. (See also Luke 5:16, Mark 1:35, and 1 Corinthians 1:9)
2. Spending a time of daily devotion or quiet time is difficult for many people. What are some reasons it is so difficult?
3. Read Exodus 33:7-11. What do we learn about the purpose of the “tent of meeting”?
4. Examine Moses' interaction with the Lord. What are some lessons we can learn about encountering God? (See also Numbers 12:8)
5. How does the time spent with God affect Moses when he comes down from the mountain and returns to the camp? (See Ex 34:6-7, 29-35; 2 Cor 3:12-18) What are some ways our life would be affected if we were to meet God daily?
6. Share some of the convictions you have received today. Begin to challenge and encourage one another to draw near to God daily.