

A. HUMBLE

- We have embarked on the Way of Wisdom, desiring to know God's ways and, more importantly, to grow in knowing God Himself.
- Psalm 25 taught us that God invites us into a lifestyle where He reveals His thoughts and plans to us individually: Ps 25:14 NIV -- The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.
- David was humble and hungry to live this way but, like all of us, hit some obstacles:
 - Distrust
 - False hope
 - Guilt and shame due to sin (legitimate)
 - Illegitimate guilt and shame
 - Emotional and circumstantial hardships
 - Prayerlessness
- It requires humility, surrender, and fear of the Lord to share the heart cry of David: "Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths." (Ps 25:4)
- In Moses we find another example of one who was humble and hungry in their wholehearted pursuit of God. He was humbled by his great need for God's wisdom: Num 12:3 NLT – Moses was very humble—more humble than any other person on earth
- As Moses walked out each chapter of his life, the depth of his relationship with God grew. He came to know that God's ways are far superior to any other path:
 - He was spared a death sentence as an infant and nurtured by godly parents (Ex 2:9)
 - He had eyes to see the fleeting nature of the world's riches and pleasures (Heb 11:25)
 - He learned the foolishness of trying to do God's work by human means (Ex 2:11-12)
 - He heard and answered the call of God to lead His people out of Egypt (Ex 3:2-5)
 - He saw God perform miracles with the plagues and the Red Sea (Ex 8-9; 14:10ff)
- At a pivotal time in the life of Israel, we see how time invested in his relationship with God served Moses well. He prayed boldly and in line with God's revealed will: Exodus 33:7 – 17 NIV -- Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, a good distance from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting which was outside the camp. ⁸ And it came about, whenever Moses went out to the tent, that all the people would arise and stand, each at the entrance of his tent, and gaze after Moses until he entered the tent. ⁹ Whenever Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent; and the LORD would speak with Moses. ¹⁰ When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would arise and worship, each at the entrance of his tent. ¹¹ Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent. ¹² Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people!' But You Yourself have not let me know whom You will send with me. Moreover, You have said, 'I have known you by name, and you have also found favor in My sight.' ¹³ Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor in Your sight. Consider too, that this nation is Your people." ¹⁴ And He said, "My presence shall go *with you*, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ Then he said to Him, "If Your presence does not go *with us*, do not lead us up from here. ¹⁶ For how then can it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and

Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, may be distinguished from all the *other* people who are upon the face of the earth?" ¹⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight and I have known you by name."

- This prayer takes place right after the Golden Calf incident. Some of the people experienced God's fierce judgment and others were grieved and repented. (v.4)
- The Lord spoke of withdrawing His Presence and sending an angel to lead them instead. Moses' prayer demonstrates his great hunger for the presence of God. (v.3)
- Insights:

B. HUNGRY

- Moses was hungry for God's wisdom in leading the Israelites. However, his greater hunger was to live with God's presence and to know Him more deeply.
- His first priority was to set up a meeting place with God. He pitched the Tent of Meeting some distance away from the noise, drama, and distractions of the camp.
- He knew he needed a place for communion with God where deep exchange could happen. He was hungry for the kind of intimacy that brings peace to the chaos.
- Notice that this Tent of Meeting was available to "everyone who sought the Lord" (v. 7)
- LISTENING EXERCISE:

*Look at the list of ways God's presence was evident in the events of Moses' life. (p.1)
Now take a few moments to remember a time(s) when God was clearly with you:*

How does seeing His work in your life effect your "need meter"? Does it help you get in touch with humility birthed by gratitude and/or dependence?

*What is your current level of hunger for:
-- Knowing God's ways*

-- Knowing God more deeply

What are the biggest obstacles keeping you from the humility and hunger that create a desire for more of God?

- God spoke with Moses as with a friend – face to face – because he had found favor with Him:
 - Face – personal presence (v. 11, Strong's H6440)
 - Friend – person with whom one stands in reciprocal relations (vv. 11, Strong's H7453)
 - Favor – acceptance, goodwill, kindness, grace (vv. 12, 12, 16, 17; Strong's H2580)
- Moses enjoyed free, open, intimate fellowship with God but didn't literally see His face. (Ex 33:20) Jesus promised this kind of relationship to His disciples then and now: Jn 15:15 NLT -- I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.
- Based on his deep relationship with God, Moses prayed boldly for the people and himself. He did not want to take one step without God's presence. (vv. 13 – 16)
- We see in God's response to this prayer that His desire is to go with His people (us!) and to bless us with His rest. (v. 14)
- The rest of God is "a settled peace." (H 5117) We can find true rest on this side of heaven by listening to and following our ever-present God (See tools page "Listening to God")
- May we be like Moses in this hunger for deeper knowledge of God and His ways by:
 - Pitching our Tents -- set aside a time and place to come before Him (v. 7)
 - Drawing Near – seek God's face vs. settling for a distant gaze like the Israelites (vv. 8,11)
 - Counting on God's Favor – receive His welcome and goodwill because of Jesus (Eph 1:6)
 - Asking for His Counsel – pray that God would show us His ways (v.13)
 - Refusing to Go without Him – ask for God's marching orders before moving forward (v. 16)
 - Desiring to be Different – be discernably set apart vs. blending in with the world (v. 16)
- As we practice these principles we will grow in wisdom. If not, we risk becoming like the Israelites who were often stiff-necked, fickle and rebellious. (v. 5)
- After a lifetime of following God, Moses spoke of how God used humility and hunger to teach His people the Way of Wisdom: Deut 8:3 NLT -- He humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.
- Let's allow every situation to we face to humble us, helping us to see our need for God's wisdom and make us hungry for more of Him.
- Insights:

C. TESTIMONY

D. PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ONE THING

- The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

- PONDER THE TRUTH

Which verse or principle stood out to you this week? Write it below taking some time to review it often. Be still in God's presence, alert for new insights. Record them here.

- PROCESSING THE TRUTH

Prayerfully consider the Listening Exercises from this lesson. Ask the Spirit to guide you into a deeper understanding of the truth and to reveal any specific faith steps He is calling you to take. Write down your insights.