



## **CrossRoads Notes:**

Turn Your Bibles to Exodus 14:13-14:

**Title: Make Us Worshipers**

**Theme: Worshipers Who Pray Through to a Completion**

**Series: Grasping the Foundational Truths of Prayer**

“Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." (Exodus 14:13-14)

**Introduction:** *If you have been a Christian for very long you are very much aware of this chapter in Israel's history. Most people even if they are not Christians have heard something of what happened at the Red Sea. The vessel the Lord chose to work through in preparing a people to be freed from bondage was Moses. God enabled Moses to do many great things before the Lord, one was being an intercessor. A Biblical intercessor gets involved by first interceding in prayer by making petition or entreaty in favor of another. (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary) A Biblical intercessor hears the voice of God and then moves forward in faith and gives others opportunity to follow.(Deuteronomy 5:1-33) (Numbers 14:17)(Numbers 14:18-19)(Numbers 14:13-16)(Number 14:15-16)*

**Interrogative Sentence:** *Just what made Moses the intercessor that enabled Him to enjoy the power of God? What is the character that enables the church of Jesus Christ to walk in step with the Holy Spirit and enjoy the power of God in her labors with the Lord?*

**Proposition:** *I would like to propose to you that Exodus chapter 14 and other Biblical records of the Lord working in and through the life of Moses present to us the foundation of making worshipers who pray through to the power of God in their lives and ministries.*

**Transitional Sentence:** *The first truth that the Holy Spirit wants you to grasp is what is in the heart of worshipers who have the ear of God. There needs to be that vessel who can allow people to see the power of God working in their lives. The English Standard version gives us this wonderful translation with, “We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him.” (John 9:31) (John 9:1) (John 9:7) (John 9:7-34)*

From studying the prayer life of Jesus, we know that God always hears Him because He was fully submitted to His Father's will. (John 11:41-42: Hebrews 5:7) Listen to the words of a man who was touched by Jesus, the Son of God who accomplished His father's will. (John 9:35-38) (John 9:30-32)(John 9:35) (John 9:35-38) (John 9:38)

Moses occupied a unique place as God's friend. (Exodus 33:11) Another worshipper of God, Abraham, was also called "friend." (James 2:23-24; Isaiah 41:8) At least two other times in the Bible Abraham is referred to as being God's friend, one of those being when the Lord was speaking to God's people, reminding them that they were chosen for a purpose. (2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8)

The term "he was called friend" in James 2:23 is another way of saying that he was right with God. It was not that Abraham earned favor with God by his obedience, rather through his obedience he was showing what a real friend to God is. (The Expositors Bible Commentary) In Isaiah 41:8 Abraham was referred to by God through the prophet Isaiah as being "my friend." "My friend" literally means "loving Me." (A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory) It was a special privilege of Abraham to be known as God's friend. A truth that must be grasped by all who want to be intercessors and true worshippers of the Lord Jesus is, Abraham loved God, and he showed his love by his obedience. (The Pulpit Commentary)

Jesus called His disciples "friends." Christian friendship with Christ is much more than casual acquaintance; it is a partnership of mutual esteem and affection. Jesus defined friendship in terms of obedience to His commands. (John 15:14-16)

Warren Wiersbe was so correct when he wrote, "The first duty of every soul is to find not its freedom but its Master." Mr. Wiersbe capitalized the letter "M" in Master, referring that true freedom is found in surrendering to the Lordship of Jesus Christ who is the only One who can teach you what truly liberty is.

**Transitional Sentence:** *A foundational step to becoming intercessors who have the ear of God is to walk in the type of obedience that reflects we are His friends.* Another truth the Holy Spirit wants you to grasp is that an intercessor who has the ear of the Lord is a worshipper who wants to be taught of God and live in His presence. (Exodus 33:12-13)

Here we read of Moses' prayer and the Lord's answer. Every great intercessor for the Lord has this heart. This was the cry of the Apostle Paul. (Philippians 3:10)

In Exodus 33:1-3 that God said He would not go with Moses to the land of promise. His reason for not going with Moses to the promised land was that the people of God were so stiff-necked that He might destroy them. (Exodus 33:1-3)

A church that is going to have fellowship with God and give the true worship that enables them to enjoy His presence must understand that sin will exclude them from enjoying the presence of God's Spirit. A true church will recognize when she begins to replace worship in spirit and truth with traditionalism, legalism, and denominationalism, and is worshipping the Lord in faddism. A true church has leaders who are led by the Holy Spirit and who do not look at the church through rose colored glasses.

Moses does not argue with the Lord, he relies upon what God told Him. His prayer is, “[Lord] You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’” “Know you by name” means that Moses belonged to God. The Lord had singled him out for a purpose and the Lord would see His purpose accomplished through Moses. “You have found favor with me,” meant that Moses had acceptance, enjoyed a special standing, or was given a privileged position to serve the Lord and be an intercessor for God’s people. (Bible Knowledge Commentary; The Expositors Bible Commentary; Commentary on the Old Testament; The Complete Word Study of the Old Testament)

The Holy Spirit moved through the Apostle Peter to write to God’s elect, those who are strangers in this world. (1 Peter 1:2) 1 Peter 2:9 says, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

True worshippers are chosen people, property of God, the blood purchased church singled out for the purpose of proclaiming the great work of God and declaring the praises of Jesus Christ to a stiff-necked people who want only their own way in life. (Easton Bible Dictionary) Through the blood of Jesus Christ Christians have favor with God, enjoy a special standing and have all the privileges that come with knowing and serving the Lord Jesus. Their standing is under the authority of Christ to go and make disciples and the privilege is enjoying the abundant life promised in Christ.

Moses sets the example of the heart that is to be found in the life of a worshipper who has the ear of God, Moses’ petition was “If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you.” (Exodus 33:13) Intercessors who see the power of God working in their lives and their ministries are those who have a teachable spirit. (Psalm 119:1-4)

Ed Wood told the story about a woman who had read the Bible and stated that it was the dullest book she had ever read. When she became a born again Christian and fell in love with the author, she found the Word of God to be life giving. Those who have hard cold hearts to the Lord can care less about a relationship with Jesus Christ. They find the Word of God and the things of God dull. Worshippers who fall in love with Christ and listen to His teaching find the Bible inspiring, life giving and full of information on how to live for the glory of Christ.

In his prayer of intercession for the people of God, Moses prayed, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" (Exodus 33:15-16)

The church who has the ear of the Lord open to their prayers is the church that knows unless the Lord is working in and through them they might as well as shut their doors. If He is not going to lead, protect and give empowerment to their labors done for Him they might as well as not do anything. There is nothing wrong with asking the Lord to show that He is pleased with His church and to work through her in a way that shows clearly that Holy Spirit is working in and through the church of Jesus Christ.

Worshippers who are taught of God and are hungry for the Lord Jesus' presence in their lives and ministry are told what God told Moses about his ordained task. (Exodus 33:14) (Exodus 33:17) The church that worships in spirit and truth has the promise of God's Word. (Hebrews 13:5-6)

Jesus' promise in the giving of the "Great Commission" is "And surely I am with you always..." (Matthew 28:20) "Always" (*pasa tas hemeras*) means "all the days," or "day in and day out" or rather "the whole of the day." The application is that the presence of Christ is with His church through the Holy Spirit as Companion, Friend, and Guide. He is with them in private and public prayer meetings, during the giving of exhortation, while applying disciplines, in trials of persecution and affliction, and in the administration of our Christian duties. Literally the Lord Jesus' presence will never be withdrawn for us for a single moment. (Word Meanings; The Pulpit Commentary; Vines; Word Pictures in the New Testament)

**Transitional Sentence:** *True worshipers enjoy the Lord Jesus' presence and pray through to completion what the Lord calls them to do.* (Numbers 12:7)

In Exodus chapter 3 we read of God seeing the misery of His people in Egypt. (Exodus 3:7,10) Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." (John 8:34) A true worshipper of Christ has the same calling as Moses. They are to take a message of freedom that Christ can bring (John 8:36) to a people in the world who are held captive to the slavery of the flesh, the world, and the lies of the devil.

In Exodus 14 we see this faithful intercessor, Moses, praying and following through to a healthy completion what God told him to do. As they are encamped at the Red Sea God tells Moses all about what is to take place. God is going to bring glory to Himself. (Exodus 14:4) Moses authenticity is shown forth at the edge of the Red Sea.

True worshipers are found authentic in the heat of battle only as they prayerfully trust in the Lord and walk in obedience to Him.

(Exodus 14:10-12)(Exodus 12:31)(Exodus 12:33)(Exodus 12:36) Not only was Moses' character being exposed at the Red Sea but that of the people of God as well.

True worshipers are found genuine in the heat of the battle of the Lord. They have the heart of Moses who interceded for God, giving the Word of the Lord. (Exodus 14:13-14)

As we continue to read we notice that a true intercessor for the Lord has ears to hear and a heart obey the Lord's instructions. The Lord tells Moses. (Exodus 14:15)

The rest of the story is that God fought for Israel and brought them through the Red Sea on dry ground and when it was all over "...the Israelites saw the great power the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, they feared the Lord and put their trust in Him and in Moses His servant." (Exodus 14:31)

True worshipers pray through to completion what the Lord has told them to do, just as Moses did. The end results are that they enjoy the power of God in their lives and ministries before the Lord. The people of God walk in a reverent fear of the Lord and see God's hand doing a work in their families, friends and co-workers. Trust is established in the church of Jesus Christ.

**In Closing:** *Worshipers are Christians who have the ear of God because He knows they are His friend, they long to be taught of the Lord and enjoy His presence, and they pray through to a healthy completion of what they are told to do.*

Worshipers are like, "Moses, faithful... [servants] in... God's house, testifying to all that Christ has and will do "in the future." Their trust is in, "Christ [who] is faithful as a Son over God's house. [They] are His house, [if they] hold on to [their] courage and the hope of which we boast." (Hebrews 3:5-6) They are worshipers because of what Christ did on the Cross of Calvary. Jesus' death on the Cross tore open the curtain in the temple, symbolizing that all who have faith in Christ may enter into the presence of God. Thus the prayer of Christians is, Holy Spirit, "Make Us Worshipers." Let us pray!