

PRESENT Presence

Matthew 1:23

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PRESENT - IN THE TABERNACLE

Matthew 1:21-23 [21] She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." [22] All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: [23] "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

The Presence of God: Genesis 3, Exodus 3

1) Being in God's _____ & _____ can be a terrifying thing.

Job 26:14 Behold, these are but the outskirts of his ways, and how small a whisper do we hear of him! But the thunder of his power who can understand?"

2) God's presence is not a _____.

1 Samuel 4:10-11 So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. *And the ark of God was captured...*



"How, then, shall we lay hold of that Life and Power, and live the life of prayer without ceasing? By quiet, persistent practice in turning all of our being, day and night, in prayer and inward worship and surrender, toward him who calls in the deeps of our souls." - Thomas Kelly

3) Do you have _____ for the presence of God in your life?

Psalm 132 "Remember, O LORD, in David's favor, all the hardships he endured, how he swore to the LORD and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob, "I will not enter my house or get into my bed, I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."

Exodus 33:15 "If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here."

DIGGING DEEPER

Questions and reflections for your own personal or group study.

1. When someone says "presence of God" what does that mean to you?
2. What are some reasons it is important to understand the "terrifying presence of God?" What are the results of never understanding this aspect of God?
3. Read Isaiah 6:1-8 What are your impressions about this scene in the Bible? What stands out in regards to the "presence of God?"
4. How can this help you understand Matthew 1:23 better?
5. What struck you most from the story of the ark?
6. How can we sometimes treat the presence of God as a "good luck charm?"
7. What's the antidote to this? (Discuss the Thomas Kelly quote above)
8. Answer #3 above in your own heart and mind. What stops this from being a passion?