

**God Goes on When You Cannot**  
**Exodus 34:5—11 March 22, 2020**

**Introduction**

1. Thanks, state of church (tone), Wednesday, next Sunday, next series, Easter goal.
  2. S: Perseverance is a distinguishing characteristic of effective, successful people, but it is one of the first some give up on when difficulty arises. Of course, if you wanted to throw your hands up right now, who could blame you? We do not give up on things b/c they are pleasurable. We do so because they are difficult. Academic program, marriage, business, financial goals and plans, friendships, God.
  3. CX: Moses could relate. First 31 chapters of Exodus only 10 mentions of sin. Chapters 32—34 eleven mentions of sin. What happened? The golden calf. So the progression here is apostasy, affliction, anguish.
  4. CBT: Moses asked God to show him His glory (33:18). The Lord showed him His glory by revealing His well-earned nicknames.
  5. Text: Exodus 34:5—9. Repeated often in OT and throws light on God's dealings with Israel, church, and us.
  6. Thesis: These nicknames of the Lord reveal that at about the time you want to give up, God is ready to move forward.
  7. PQ:
- I. As Merciful, the Lord is ready to move forward with your Needs.**
1. Definition: God has a well-earned reputation for turning to us to meet our needs.
  2. The Lord does not have mercy; the Lord is mercy. Mercy is as eternal as God is. There is never a time when God is not merciful.
  3. What need do you have now? Fortitude? Peace? Blessing?
  4. I realize we do not want to risk losing friends or face by mentioning our needs. We know that becoming needy before others is a risk BUT IS HAS NEVER BEEN A RISK WITH GOD. YOUR NEEDS DO NOT FRIGHTEN GOD. THEY DO NOT REPEL HIM; THEY ATTRACT HIM. THEY SUMMON HIM, AND HE RESPONDS.
  5. Do not give up when you have a need. God is ready to move forward with mercy.
- II. As Gracious, the Lord is ready to move forward with your Blessing.**
1. Definition: God has a well-earned reputation for initiating blessing in sinner's lives.

2. Rom 3:9—10: in us no good thing dwells. Nothing in us prompts God to act kindly towards us. He does, but He does not act kindly towards us because He thinks we are cute, adorable, righteous, etc. He acts kindly towards b/c of His own benevolent nature.
3. Q: Are you at your best today? Or worst? Functioning at your best should not give you a sense of entitlement; functioning at your worst should not give you a sense of discouragement. At your best, you do not deserve more blessing; at your worst you are not getting less. GOD FREELY GIVES BLESSING TO SINNERS WHO TRUST HIM.

**III. As Longsuffering, the Lord is ready to move forward with your Changes.**

1. Definition: The Lord has a well-earned reputation for giving us latitude to struggle with changing ourselves. He does not give up. He is reluctant to lower to boom on us when we struggle.
2. 2 Peter 3:9—today's crisis has many people's attention; it should; God has been patient b/c He wants to give us opportunity to repent.
3. Do not allow your struggles to make you swim in regret. Confess, move on, and enjoy the longsuffering nature of God.

**IV. As Abounding, the Lord is ready to move forward with Promises.**

1. Definition: The Lord has a well-earned reputation for exact compliance with His promises. He abounds with compliance to His promises and word.
2. The springs of his faithful love are always full, and His streams are always flowing. There never is a drought with Him.
3. This is your future—God's promise to abound in faithfulness to His promise of love.

**V. As Visionary, the Lord is ready to move forward with your World.**

1. Definition: The Lord has a well-earned reputation for keeping focus on the thousands who do not know Him, and the thousands not yet born. He always has the world in view.
2. We have needs indeed, but when we walk with God, we look where He looks—John 4:35. He looks at those who need Him.
3. Do something to reach others in this time. They need you and they need your God.

**VI. As Forgiver, the Lord is ready to move forward with your Failures.**

1. B: Sin is a burden that weighs us down; mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

2. Definition: *NASA*, God has a well-earned reputation for lifting the load and burden of guilt off of sinners.
3. Illus: Sins in Genesis. And that is only 1 of 66 books in the Bible. His love lifted them all.
4. The devil lifted Jesus onto the cross and the Father lifted Him out of the grave, so believing sinners can have the load of guilt lifted.

VII. As Wisdom, the Lord is ready to move forward with your Purity.

1. Definition: God has a well-earned reputation for doing things to prevent and eliminate sinfulness. This text is designed to prevent disobedience.
2. Obj: Can't God think of a better motive? A: Show me some better people and yes. But the people with whom God is dealing are not better; the love sin and error and the Lord says and does whatever is necessary to meet the need.
3. God is not willing to let anything get in the way of a close walk with His people.