

## **Scripture Lesson for Oct. 18, 2020 – 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

### **The Hebrew Lesson: Exodus 33:12-23**

#### **Introduction:**

Moses and God have a conversation about the nature of God. People wanting more of God than God offers, at least in the case of their “seeing” God’s face. Ultimately, God offers they can think about God or imagine God but not see in a physical way...a way people would want to make God like them. Listen to this story from Exodus 33: 12-23:

#### **Exodus 33:12-23 -- Moses’ Intercession**

<sup>12</sup> Moses said to the LORD, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ <sup>13</sup> Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” <sup>14</sup> He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” <sup>15</sup> And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. <sup>16</sup> For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.”

<sup>17</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” <sup>18</sup> Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.” <sup>19</sup> And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The LORD’;<sup>[a]</sup> and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. <sup>20</sup> But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” <sup>21</sup> And the LORD continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; <sup>22</sup> and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; <sup>23</sup> then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

## **Gospel Introduction:**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter of the gospel of Matthew is filled with strong themes about Jesus and his mission. Our text for today is bookmarked by a parable of the wedding banquet and discussions between Jesus and the Pharisees about the Resurrection. In the midst of those important pieces, Jesus is asked about paying taxes. Listen to this story from Matthew 22, verses 15-22:

## **Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22:15-22 The Question about Paying Taxes**

<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. <sup>16</sup> So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup> Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" <sup>18</sup> But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup> Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" <sup>21</sup> They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." <sup>22</sup> When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.