



June 27, 2008

Thought For the Day

If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.

Exodus 33:15

One of the greatest and most important words of the Hebrew Old Testament is the word *hesed*. Like most Hebrew words, it is translated in a number of ways. Among its meanings are: loving-kindness; steadfast love; grace; mercy; faithfulness; goodness; or devotion. It is a word that is often used to describe God's attitude toward his people. It is a word that perfectly sums up what Jesus said about God in the New Testament when he said that God so loved the world that he gave his only son.

While Moses was on Mt. Sinai receiving the law from God, he came to the strong conviction that this was the most important characteristic of God. God was a God of loving-kindness, a God of steadfast love, a God of grace and mercy. He reached that conclusion when God, looking at his rebellious people, said to Moses ***I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way.*** (Exodus 33:3) In those words Moses could hear the heart of God. God would rather send an angel than risk destroying his people because of their disobedience. Moses, however, hearing the heart of God, and recognizing that God was taking that action because of his love for his people, understood that the best way to move forward was surrounded by God's love, mercy and grace. So he responded to God by praying the prayer ***if your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.***

Because of Jesus, we live each moment of each day with the assurance that we are held in the loving, grace-filled arms of God. When we fail, his heart is to forgive us. All we need do is come to him, confess, and seek his forgiveness. We need never fear God's anger when we seek to walk with him. He delights in mercy and we can be free to serve in love.

As you step into each new day, always remember the character of the God with whom you journey. I cannot even begin to imagine wanting to go forward without Him.

*O love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee.
I give Thee back the life I owe,
that in Thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.*