

ABISHAG - HOSTESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE

³ *The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.*

Isaiah 51:3

⁴ *One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.*

Psalms 27:4

¹¹ *The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the LORD blessed him and his entire household.* ¹² *Now King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing.*

II Samuel 6:11,12

I. The presence we are to host.

A. God's presence can be dangerous. (Exodus, 33:3)

³ *"Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way."*

B. God's presence demands humility. (Exodus 33:5)

⁵ *For the LORD had said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites, ‘You are a stiff-necked people. If I were to go with you even for a moment, I might destroy you. Now take off your ornaments and I will decide what to do with you.’”*

C. God’s presence activates worship. (Exodus 33:10)

¹⁰ *Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to their tent.*

D. Gods’ presence thrives in intimacy. (Exodus 33:11)

¹¹ *The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.*

E. God’s presence brings favor. (Exodus 33:12,13)

¹² *Moses said to the LORD, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’”* ¹³ *If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.”*

F. God’s presence brings rest. (Exodus 33:14)

¹⁴ *The LORD replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”*

G. The desert simply receives life-giving waters and flourishes without works of any kind. The desert simply hosts life-giving waters.

- II. Obed-Edom hosting the presence of the Lord. (I Chronicles 13:13,14)
- A. Obed-Edom, a Gittite from Gath, was an unlikely host of God's presence. God uses outsiders to humble insiders.
 - B. Obed-Edom was not afraid of the presence of God. David was.
 - C. Obed-Edom received the Ark without works.
 - D. Obed-Edom's prosperity was seen by all. (I Chronicles 13:13,14)
 - E. Obed-Edom had an indefinite legacy starting with eight sons, ending with 62 male heirs who served as door keepers in the house of the Lord
- III. Abishag, hostess of the presence of the Lord.
- A. Navigating the labyrinth between head and heart
 - B. The presence of God is the answer to everything.
 - C. Every revival or awakening in the world was a result of the presence of God. Nothing more, nothing less.
 - D. Abishag was the connecting wire in David's bed chamber to interpret and re-explain all David already knew.
 - E. We need safe others as mirrors to host God presence, so what we know in our heads can drop into our hearts.
 - F. Abishags and Shaggys simply host God's presence, the only thing that is needful.
 - G. Mary and Martha attempted to host Jesus (kind of). The lover, Mary, hosted Him. The laborer, Martha, indirectly quenched Him (Luke 10:41).

⁴¹ “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things,”

H. Which are you in any group, Mary or Martha?

I. Abishag and Shaggy shut up and host His presence!