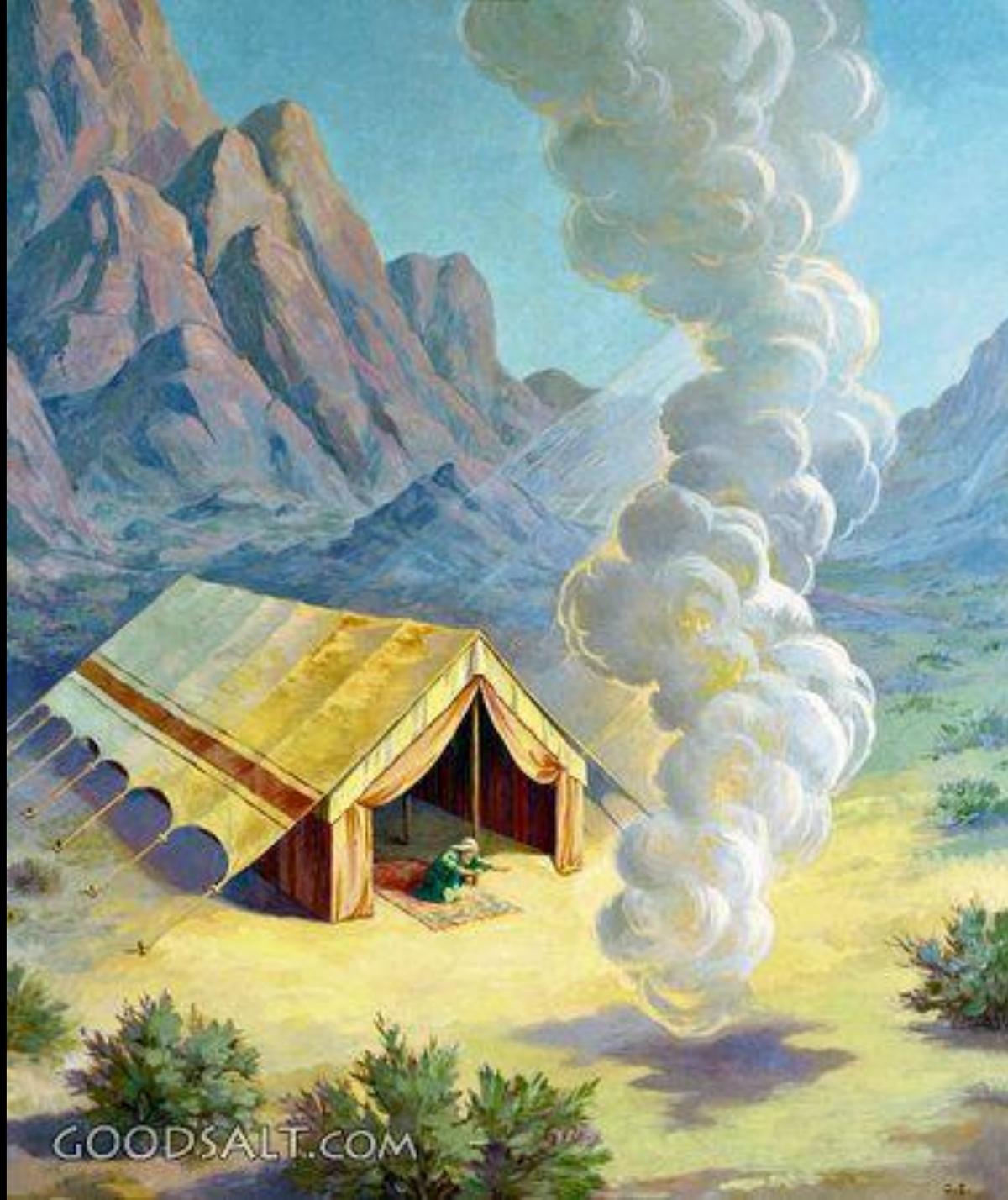


Exodus 33 v 7-11

Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent. As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses.

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. 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.



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INTIMACY

intimacy = *close familiarity or friendship*

*The Lord would speak to Moses **face to face**,
as one speaks to a friend. (33v11a)*

“Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp.” (33v7b)

*I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, **I have called you friends**, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. John 15v15*

*“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians
and how I bore you on eagles wings and
brought you to Myself.” – Exodus 19 v 4*

INTERCESSION

Intercession =

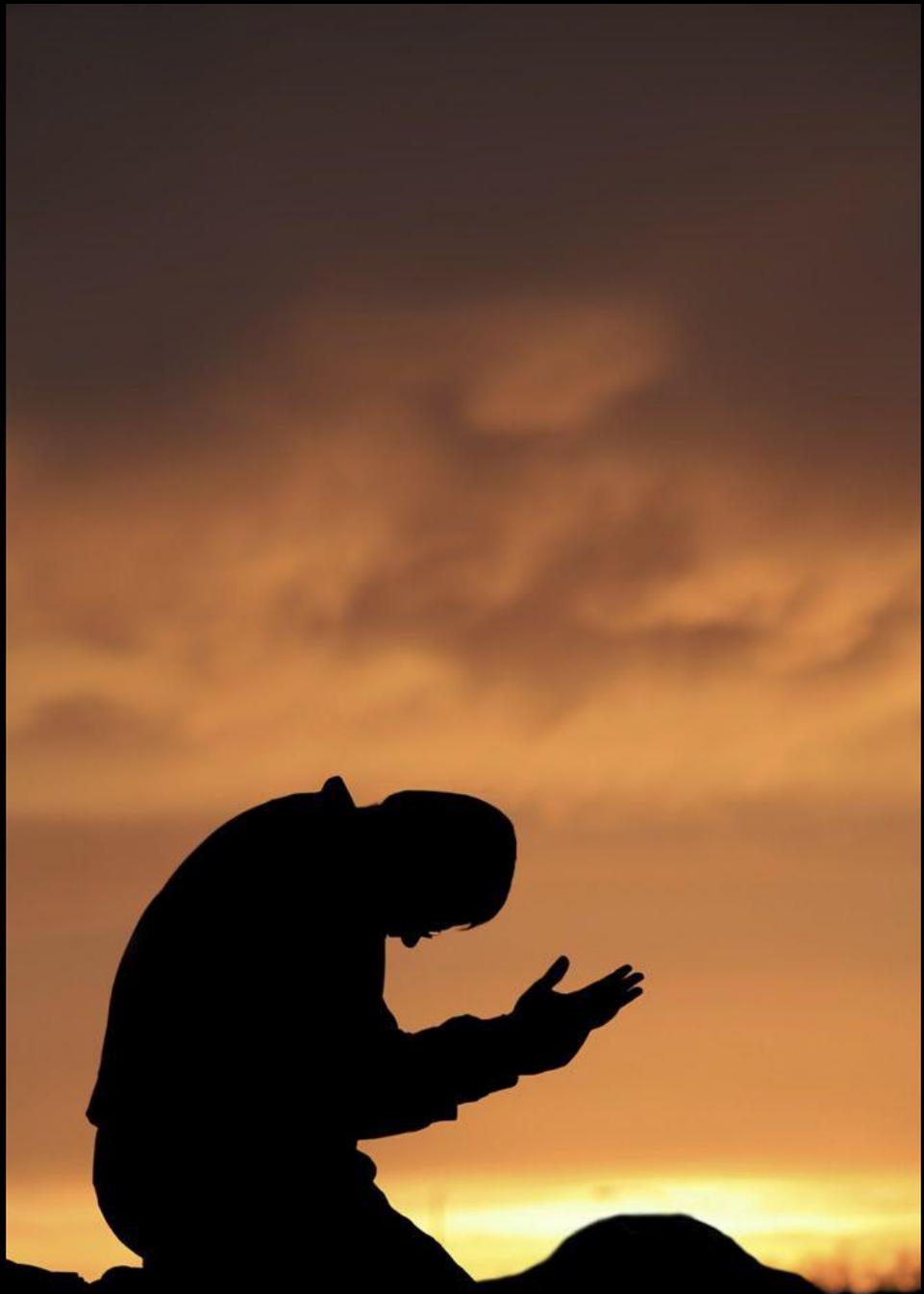
the action of saying a prayer on behalf of another

And whenever Moses went out to the tent, **all the people** rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent. (33v8)

Then Moses said to him, **“If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?”**

And the LORD said to Moses, **“I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.”**

Exodus 33 v 15-17



RETREAT

Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it **outside the camp** some distance away, calling it the “tent of meeting.” (33v7)

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a **solitary place**, where he prayed. Mark 1 v 35*

*But Jesus **often withdrew** to lonely places and prayed. Luke 5 v 16*

Retreat to the *eramos*...

wilderness / desert / deserted place /
desolate place / solitary place / quiet place /
lonely place





A person is standing on a rocky riverbank, looking out over a misty forest. The scene is serene and quiet, with a large log in the foreground and a stream flowing through the center. The background is filled with tall evergreen trees, some of which are partially obscured by the mist. The overall atmosphere is one of solitude and nature's beauty.

SILENCE + SOLITUDE

Without solitude it is virtually impossible to live a spiritual life... We do not take the spiritual life seriously if we do not set aside some time to be with God and listen to Him.

Henri Nouwen

Modernity slowly weakened spirituality, by design and accident, in favor of commerce; it downplayed silence and mere being in favor of noise and constant action. The reason we live in a culture increasingly without faith is not because science has somehow disproved the unprovable, but because the white noise of secularism has removed the very stillness in which it might endure or be reborn... If churches came to understand that the greatest threat to faith today is not hedonism but distraction, perhaps they might begin to appeal anew to a frazzled digital generation – Andrew Sullivan

REMAIN

*Afterward Moses would return to the camp, but the young man who assisted him, **Joshua son of Nun, would remain behind in the Tent of Meeting.***

Exodus 33v11 (NLT)

Generation of Joshua's

*“These are the ones who are not seeking platform but rather **pursuing holiness**; who are **hungry for God’s presence** and who are **humble.**” – Mark Sayers*

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you **remain in me** and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

John 15 v 5

Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and **remain on him.**”

John 1 v 32

*“Do you not know that your bodies are **temples of the Holy Spirit**, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own...”*

1 Corinthians 6 v 19

As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being **built into a spiritual house** to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ

1 Peter 2 v 4-5

And in [Christ] you too are being built together to become **a dwelling in which God lives** by his Spirit.

Eph. 2 v 19-22

'The Practice of the Presence of God'

"meditate on [God's law] day and night"

"pray without ceasing"

"give thanks in all circumstances"

"Set your minds on things above"

"walk by the Spirit"



Reflection...

- How much time have you spent “in the tent” with God lately?
- What needs to change so that you have more time “in the tent” with God?
- In what ways might you **retreat** to be alone with God this week?
- How could you **remain** in the presence of the LORD more this week?