

## *When They Had Seen Him*

“When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.” Luke 2:17

“But” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.” Exodus 33:20

“They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.” Revelations 22:4

Moses isn’t very different from the rest of us. We all want to see the face of God. The One who is over all, in all and through all (Ephesians 4:6) is too large for our comprehension but if we can see His face, all things become manageable. So it was that Moses longed to see the face of God.

Moses was forbidden to see the face of God because “no one may see me and live”. Yet, in the manger at Bethlehem, shepherds saw the face of God and lived to tell about what they had seen and heard. I envy shepherds. I long to see Jesus. I want to know Christ, personally and intimately – face to face. What will His face reveal? What will be known by seeing?

The majesty and mystery of Christmas is that our longing to look into the face of Jesus, to know and be known, has been realized, is being realized, and will be realized. The ministry of Jesus, God with us, was intimate and relational. The promise guaranteeing our hope is the Spirit that abides in the community of faith, in the face of every member of it. To see my brother and sister is to see the likeness of God, the face of Jesus. In the consummation, we shall see His face.

Until that time, this Christmas season, I promise to look at you. To see your face and to look for my Savior’s face in yours. I invite you to do the same. Hopefully, the next time we meet, we’ll look deeper, closer in each other’s face to see the One who loved us and gave Himself for us. Merry Christmas....

Al Fletcher