

Thursday, February 18

Readings: Psalm 91:1-2, 91:9-16; Exodus 5:10-23;
Acts 7:30-34

Prayer: *Dear Lord, thank you for the rewards of obedience. Even as you promised to bless Israel if they obeyed you, so you have promised to me. Help me, I pray, to live a life open to your blessings.*

*But, beyond this, may I obey you because of who you are and what you have already done for me. May my obedience be an act of gratitude, a worshipful response to your grace in Christ. Amen.*⁴

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Obey responsibly

to glorify God as a faithful proclamation of God's word. We acknowledge our faith and show our faith in the gospel for the glory of God and for the building up of the body of Christ. This takes courage. It involves our life-long obedience, including the ways we treat our families, others, and ourselves.

**"... you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ."
2 Corinthians 9:13**

Focal Verse: "Now when forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning bush. When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight; and as he approached to look, there came the voice of the Lord:" Acts 7:30-31

Reflection: Christian stewards strive to know God's expectations and act on that knowledge, recognizing that they are following a plan that is not their own, with resources not their own but entrusted to their care. They know that they are accountable for what they do with what they have.

If what we want is what matters most, then what God wants will not come first. In that case, following the wishes of the majority will appear to be the leader's most important task.

God's gifts come with the expectation that they will be used for God's purposes. True joy is discovered in receiving, using, and offering God's gifts as stewards. This may require change in individuals and congregations. Even those people most certain that nothing more is required than what has always been done in the past can be motivated to learn what God requires of us and work to carry through faithfully with what we have been given.⁵

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

⁴ Copyright © 2001-2009 H. E. Butt Foundation, Mark D. Roberts, *TheHighCalling.org*

⁵ Golv, John L., *Our Stewardship: Managing Our Assets*, © 2002, Augsburg Fortress, p. 24, 30 and 33.