



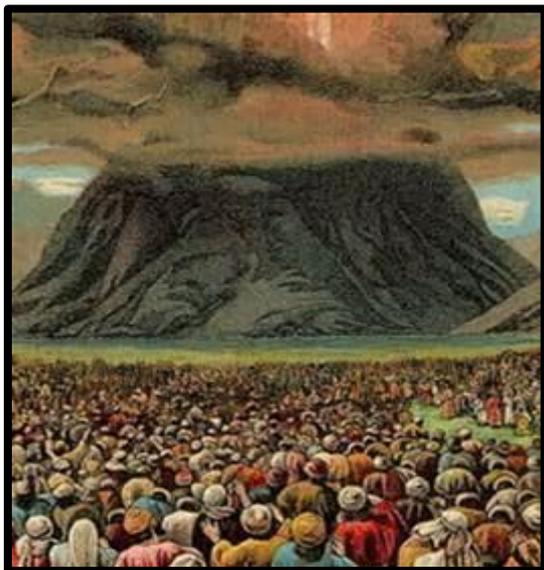
FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: *Dennis & Diane Gordon*

THROUGH THE WILDERNESS *Lesson 5*

PREPARING TO MEET GOD

Exodus 19



GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME

JESUS WANTS ME ALWAYS TO BE WASHED & CLEAN
SO NOTHING WILL KEEP ME FROM MEETING WITH HIM

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK: *Repeat 2x with Congregation*

Psalm 16:11

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life:

In thy presence is fullness of joy;

At thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore "

INTRODUCTION: Last week we learned not to make decisions based on someone else's opinion but to seek only God's way. This week we learn that God wants you to cleanse yourself, to be holy, so that nothing can hinder you from entering into the joy of His presence, where He lives powerfully in and through your life.

N 2. LIFE PARABLE: Preparing for a Special Date



You can always tell when a young person has fallen in love – how? Suddenly they are very concerned about their grooming! How many of you remember that special first date? The anticipation was more than you could contain! You spent the better part of each day thinking about your date; rehearsing in your mind each special thing about them and telling every detail to whoever would listen. As the time came near you thought about where you could go, what you would say, some little gift you might give, and what you would wear. You couldn't wait for the phone call each night. And when the special time for meeting finally came, you bathed, took extra time styling your hair, checked your clothing in the mirror, and added a spray of cologne. Every last detail had to be perfect because this love of yours was so special and you were eager to please them!

We have a special date with our Lord each and every day! Do you anticipate your time with Him like He anticipates His time with you? What do you do to prepare for your special date with God? Do you read again His special letters to you? Do you think about Him all the day? Do you tell anyone who will listen how wonderful He is? Do you bathe so you won't be embarrassed to sit close to Him? Do you cleanse your mouth so you can draw near to look into His face? Do you have the special fragrance of prayer? God wants you to prepare yourself for your special meeting with Him, because that is how He feels about you. Anticipate your time with God, and you will find that everything about your life will take on a new wonder, and have deeper meaning. Live your life for God so that no filthy thought can rob you of the joy of His wonderful presence!

Jesus has made another special date with you. He is coming again in the clouds to meet you in the air. How are you preparing? Are you ready to rise up to meet Him? Don't miss it!



3. GOD DELIVERED THE ISRAELITES COMPLETELY OUT OF EGYPT, ACROSS THE RED SEA, INTO ARABIA.

Exodus 19:1 “In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, (the day that they came out of the territory ruled by Egypt by crossing the Red Sea) the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.”

The Israelites are about to have a very close encounter with God. Remember how God had told them to travel night and day for two days to get across the Sinai Peninsula? In that period of history, there were



well known Egyptian outposts along the way so they had to hurry. They would have been so hot, and thirsty, and tired, then they turned down through the mountains toward the Gulf of Aqaba to escape the Egyptian chariots, where God opened the sea for them to cross safely on dry land: finally out of the land ruled by Egypt! The Bible always interprets itself so that there can be no dispute as to the location of Mt. Sinai. **The Bible teaches that the real Mt. Sanai is located not in the Sinai Peninsula as some have thought, but in Agar in Arabia:**

Galatians 4:24-25 “Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the **one from the mount Sinai**, which gendereth to bondage, **which is Agar**. ²⁵ **For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia**, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.”

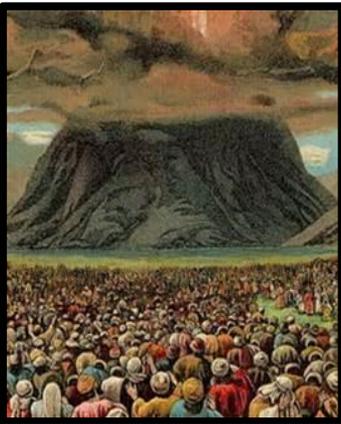
On the same day that Moses and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, God led them into the wilderness of Sinai on the other side of the Red Sea to Agar in Arabia, that was in present day Saudi Arabia.

4. THE ISRAELITES CAMP BY THE MOUNTAIN OF GOD.

Exodus 19:2 “For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount.”

They followed God’s presence in the pillar of cloud until it stopped beside the tallest mountain, Mt. Sinai. They set up their tents and camped out beside the mountain of God where He wanted to meet with them. God wants you us to camp out with Him too, so we will meet with God each night and wake up thinking about Him!

Exodus 19:3-4 “And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; ⁴Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles’ wings, and brought you unto myself.”



God led the Israelites to the mountain on the outer border above Midian, to meet with Him. The people camped out while God spoke to Moses from out of the mountain, telling Moses how He had born Moses and the Israelites on eagle’s wings to bring them safely to Himself. What does that mean? Eagles soar high above any predators that could harm them, and make their nests high in the trees of the tallest mountains. God gives His people who trust in Him wings as eagles, to soar with Him high above their enemies and all the sorrows of this world! It is important to camp out with God because He wants us to enjoy the pleasure and fullness of joy He gives us when we spend time with Him.

Psalms 16:11 “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: In thy presence is fulness of joy; At thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

5. GOD CALLS US TO COME AWAY & TO FLY ALONE.

God called the Israelites to separate themselves to protect them. Does God still protect us like He did the Israelites? What does God mean by eagle's wings and does how does that apply to us?

***Revelation 12:13-14** “And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. ¹⁴ And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.”*



If you have ever seen an eagle's nest you will notice that the nest is always in the top of the highest tree, a place that is high above and separated from everything around it. God protects His people like that too, by calling them away, to fly high above the places where that old serpent called the devil lurks to deceive us. You will also notice that eagles do not fly in flocks, they fly alone, and they teach their young to be strong and fly alone. God calls us to separate ourselves from every unclean thing in the world, to wash ourselves and prepare our hearts to fly with Him.

***2 Corinthians 6:17** “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”*

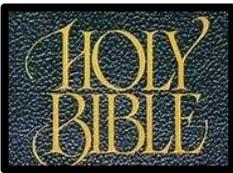
6. SATAN IN THE WORLD IS THE UNCLEAN THING, AND HE SPEWS FROM HIS MOUTH UNCLEAN WATER.

What is the water? The true doctrine of Jesus Christ is the living water of the Gospel! Satan is a counterfeiter who spews from his mouth a doctrine that is so close to the real thing that it is as hard to distinguish from the real living water as a counterfeit \$100 bill. The only way a merchant learns to distinguish a real \$100 bill from the counterfeit is to study and know the details of the genuine. The counterfeit is very nearly correct but some details will be missing. It is the same with the Gospel; a believer can tell the true Gospel from the counterfeit, because only the genuine and true Gospel will bear the marks of the **whole** counsel of God.



Revelation 12:15-17 “*And **the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood** after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. ¹⁶ And **the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.** ¹⁷ And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with **the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**”*

God’s people are kept safe by knowing the whole Gospel, but the **counterfeit church will be swept away in the flood of false doctrine** spewed from the mouth of the serpent to deceive them.



Jude 3 “*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*”

Acts 20:26-27 “*Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. ²⁷ For **I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.**”*

7. GOD'S EAGLES FLY UP HIGH ALONE, AND WATCH.

God's eagles take the road less traveled flying alone separate from the flood of false doctrine that is most popular in every age of man.

Isaiah 40:31 *“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”*

God had brought the Israelites safely out of Egypt and provided everything they needed carrying them to Himself on Eagles wings, and He shall come for those who have learned the ways of eagles.

Matthew 24:27-28 *“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ²⁸ For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.”*



Eagles teach their young to fly, and they gather together when they are flying to a carcass. The Eternal Invisible LORD GOD became (was in) the human man, Jesus Christ who lay down His life to pay the penalty for our sins, to become the dead carcass, now risen and glorified, alive as God, our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ! Jesus shall come in the clouds for His people, who like the noble eagle who is always watching, will gather to the glorified ‘carcass’ rising up to meet the LORD in the air, and thus we shall forever be with Him!

When we trust in Jesus, He promises to renew our strength and carry us up above our troubles as though we were flying on the wings of an eagle too! And when Jesus comes, He said just like the eagles fly, we will be gathered to Him!

What is troubling you? God will carry you over any problem and provide everything you need, when you surrender your life to simply trust Him, and thank Him for taking care of you!

8. GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE A ‘PECULIAR’ TREASURE.

Exodus 19:5-6 “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: ⁶ and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”



God spoke to His people with Moses standing between them saying they would be His special treasure above all others if they would obey His voice and keep His covenant. God has not changed. God confirmed His word to us living today, that we too are His peculiar treasure if we will obey Him to keep His covenant.

Titus 2:13-14 “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

1 Peter 2:9 “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”

God sets us apart to be Holy, set apart from the common things of the world to be used by Him, but do we have a responsibility to God? Yes, Moses tells God’s people to “cleanse themselves”.

Exodus 19:7-9 “And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. ⁸ And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD. ⁹ And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee forever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.”

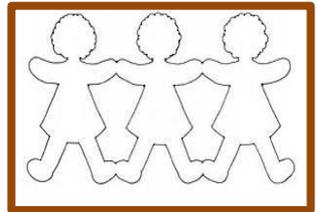
9. GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WASH AND BE READY!

Exodus 19:10-14 “*And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes,* ¹¹ *and be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.* ¹² *And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death:* ¹³ *there shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.* ¹⁴ *And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes.*”

Nothing that is sinful or hurtful or unclean can stand in the presence of a holy God! So God told Moses to sanctify the people and have them wash their clothes so they were ready for His coming! Washing helped them understand God’s holiness and the serious consequences of coming into the presence of a holy God.

OBJECT LESSON: Clothesline, Washtub, Children, Sins & Clothespins.

- *I have some children beside this washtub, just covered with sins! What sin are you hiding in your heart today? (pick up a plastic child that has small bits of brown paper ‘sins’ lightly attached with glue stick) Is it anger, or gossip, or lying?*
- *Jesus died on the cross and paid the punishment for all our sins, so we do not have to carry them all by our self! When you ask Jesus to forgive you, He washes you whiter than snow and washes away all your sin! (dip child up and down in soapy water to remove sin from child and hang on clothesline) Then Jesus covers us with His own snowy white robe and we get to hang out with Him! That’s a pretty neat trade, isn’t it!*
- *Then you will be all ready to watch for Jesus to come to take us to heaven! Are you washed and ready for Jesus?*



10. GOD CANNOT USE WISHY WASHY PEOPLE.

The Israelites washed, but they didn't want to hang out with God because they did not want to stay clean! **Just like most of us today, they would not come close enough to God to hang out and trust Him.** When Jesus comes again in the clouds, every person will hear Him speak. Some will rise up but most will not. Why? Because they took the popular route with the wide gate where there was nothing really required of them! **But Jesus does absolutely require something from every one of us, that shows Him clearly who loves Him and who does not know Him.**

***John 15:10** “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.”*

Jesus expects no less from us than He expected of the Israelites, nor less than He expected of Himself on earth. Obedience to the Gospel is what keeps us abiding in His love. Moses asked the Israelites if they would be obedient to God. They answered all together and said YES they would obey everything that God said! The Israelites certainly had good intentions, but they did not obey and their hearts drifted back to the idols of Egypt. How was their shallow commitment like the commitment of God's people today?

***Matthew 26:41** “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

Do you have good intentions when mom or dad, or God asks you to do something and you want to obey, but you fail? We must pray always because we are weak but Jesus in us will give us strength!

***Philippians 4:11-13** “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, **in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.** ¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**”*

11 GOD CALLS US TO BE LIKE MOSES & TRUST HIM.

Does God today expect the believer to be as like the Israelites, or as like Moses? God calls us to be like Moses and love God.

James 1:23-26 “For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: ²⁴for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. ²⁵But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. ²⁶If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain.”

Moses heard God’s word and obeyed, but the people did not. God calls us all to be ministers like Moses to build a spiritual house.

1 Peter 2:3-5 “If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. ⁴To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ⁵ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”

Moses believed God to be everything; that He was precious and worth every sacrifice or work he was called to do, but the people were offended by God because they were not willing to obey.

1 Peter 2:7-10 “Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, ⁸and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. ⁹But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: ¹⁰which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”

12. WE WILL EXPERIENCE EITHER JOY OR TERROR IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LIVING GOD OF HEAVEN.

Moses was not afraid of God's presence – he was excited! But the people trembled and feared Him. Jesus calls those who are excited!

Exodus 19:16-19 “*And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.* ¹⁷ *And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.* ¹⁸ *And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire; and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.* ¹⁹ *And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.*”

On the third day there were thunderings and lightnings, a thick cloud, and a very loud sounding of the trumpet growing louder and louder causing the people to tremble, and the Lord descended with fire! Only Moses did not tremble. Jesus is coming again in the same way! What future event does this picture? Are we ready?!



1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 “*For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.* ¹⁶ *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:* ¹⁷ *then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* ¹⁸ *Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*”

13. JESUS SHALL SOON GATHER US TO HIMSELF.

Why didn't God allow the people to come near to Him? **Just as the people in Moses' day, those who do not obey God's word to wash, obey His commandments, and watch for His appearing will not be called up to the cloud to meet Him in the air.**

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, ² that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. ³ **Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;** ⁴ **who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.** ⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? ⁶ And **now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.** ⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only **he who now letteth (GOD) will let, until he (THE MAN OF SIN) be taken out of the way.** ⁸ And **then (WHEN JESUS COMES) shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:** ⁹ **even him (THE MAN OF SIN), whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,** ¹⁰ **and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.** ¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹² that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness"

Do not be deceived, supposing there will be a great tribulation and an antichrist revealed who takes over the world. **The antichrist is already at work in the lying signs and wonders of the counterfeit church,** and he will not be revealed and taken out of the way until Jesus comes; then all sin, the antichrist and all men who sold themselves into sin, shall be burned up at His coming.

14. GOD’S GLORY IS SO BRIGHT, THAT IT BURNS AWAY ALL SIN AND HURTFUL THINGS.

We are told to wash and keep ourselves free from all the filth of the world before Jesus comes, because at His coming those sins are going to burn! The people would not be able to stand in God’s presence without being burned up, but God loved them, and He loves us, so He told them, and He tells us to be holy.

***Exodus 19:20-22** “And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: **and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.** ²¹ And the LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish. ²² And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them.”*

Sanctify means to cleanse and make Holy. God told Moses to sanctify the people and have them wash their clothes. Then they were to stay within the boundaries of the camp to be ready for the Lord. In other words, quit wandering in and out of the camp!

***Exodus 19:23** “And Moses said unto the LORD, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai: for thou chargedst us, saying, **Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it.**”*

Jesus wants us to stop wandering in and out of sin so **He set boundaries in His word** for you and me too – so we won’t burn up! Jesus loves you so much, He wants you to be one of His own special people. If you ask Him to come into your heart and cleanse you from sin, you’ll want to stay inside the boundaries of His camp; then you will be excited to hear the trumpet, because you will get to see Jesus!



***Exodus 19:24-25** “And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them. ²⁵ So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them.”*

15. GOD'S PURPOSE & PLAN FOR MY LIFE

1. Stay camped out with God and be excited to meet with Him!
2. God expects us to live holy lives and wash when we get dirty!
3. Don't be wishy washy, but wash, hang out, and live for Him!
4. God asks you for 100% commitment because He has a purpose for you, because you are His special treasure.
5. As priests of God, He expects you to be sanctified and have boundaries. Quit wandering in and out of His camp!
6. God knows your flesh is weak, so He gave you His own Spirit!
7. Watch and expectantly wait for Jesus' call to come up higher!
8. When Jesus comes He will call His people to come up higher to meet Him like Moses did, but this time it will be the clouds of heaven, where we shall ever be with the Lord. Be ready!
9. Jesus wants you know the joy of His presence every day!



2 Peter 3:10-13 “For **he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: ¹¹let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.** ¹²For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. ¹³And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?”

*Dear Lord Jesus, I'm sorry that I have sinned and ask You to forgive me. Wash me clean and teach me how to know You. Help me to stay in the boundaries of your word, so I won't wander off and get dirty. Help me to always be washed and resting in your presence so I will be ready when You come, **in Jesus name, Amen.***

16. TIMELINE/COLORING PAGE

Only Moses Was Ready To Meet With God. June 5, 1462 BC



GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME

JESUS WANTS ME ALWAYS, TO BE WASHED & CLEAN.
SO NOTHING WILL KEEP ME FROM MEETING WITH HIM

Psalm 16:11

*"Thou wilt shew me the path of life:
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