

May 2, 2021

God Declares Who God Is

Exodus 33:12-23

Skid Row is a neighborhood in Los Angeles that is home to one of the largest homeless encampments in the United States. Approximately 5,000 people live on the streets of Skid Row in tents, under overpasses, or in the open. Children are raised there. Lives are lived there. Many of the residents are desperate for the safety of shelter, and now they have a bit of hope. On April 20, a Los Angeles federal judge ruled that every unhoused person in Los Angeles must be offered some form of shelter by October 18.¹

This week's Scripture talks about how God was faithful to Moses. "The LORD replied, 'I'll go myself, and I'll help you' " (Exodus 33:14). God was with Moses, and Moses was favored by the Lord. We are all special to the Lord, and if we are faithful, we will experience God's goodness. Sometimes it might feel as if we're all alone at the very edge of what we can handle, but God is there. We might call out, as Moses did, that we can't do it alone, that we need someone to go with us. If we listen close enough, we will hear the reply, "I'll go myself, and I'll help you."

For the unhoused population of Los Angeles, help is coming. Many of those who live on the streets have been there for years and have experienced unthinkable tragedy. They are in dire need of medical help, mental health assistance, and other vital services, and help is coming. The federal judge's ruling is interesting in its wording: unhoused people must be *offered* shelter. They don't have to accept it, but the assistance is there. All they have to do is say yes.

1. What do you think is the hardest part about living on the street?
2. Recall a time when you were afraid to do something alone. How did it make you feel to know God was with you?
3. Have you rejected something God has offered you? Why did you do so?

Rachel Mullen lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband and daughter. She blogs at www.travelwithgrands.blogspot.com and is mom to the world's worst behaved dachshund.

¹From [latimes.com/homeless-housing/story/2021-04-20/judge-carter-la-city-county-shelter-skid-row-homeless-fall](https://www.latimes.com/homeless-housing/story/2021-04-20/judge-carter-la-city-county-shelter-skid-row-homeless-fall).

²From *Adult Bible Studies*, Spring 2021, by Clara Welch (Cokesbury, 2021).

³From *Adult Bible Studies*.