

Moses and The Burning Bush
Exodus 3:1-12

Moses chose to follow God which also meant...Moses chose to leave his old life.

You may recall that in our study in the Book of Acts we followed the development of the Apostle Paul. We noticed that he didn't become a Christian and start doing amazing things for God the next day. It took God 14 years to dismantle Saul the Pharisee and build the Apostle Paul.

Same type of development is going on here with Moses. The Egyptian needs to be completely dismantled. It won't work if Moses goes back to confront Pharaoh and finds himself drawn to the lifestyle of Egypt; tempted by the benefits of being Egyptian. Moses has to be all in as an Israelite.

This process of change takes time. For Moses, it took 40 years.

According to Acts 7:23 - When Moses went into the desert, he was 40.

According to Acts 7:30 - When Moses came out of the desert, he was 80.

The first thing God reveals about Himself is His holiness.

This is the beginning of the exodus of God's people. This how God sets into motion His plan to rescue the people of Israel. It starts with one person in response to people praying. For the one guy who is going to be in the lead, the one thing that God wants him to know – I am holy. This is the beginning of the Exodus. God is holy. God's holiness requires people to adjust to Him. Can't control this God. Can't manipulate this God. Can't bark out orders at this God.

Also fascinating to me is the apparent cause and effect connection in what happened here.

V4 *When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look.*

It's quite possible that the Holy Spirit within you will speak to you in a situation where you don't expect Him to speak. Solitude brought Moses to a place where he had a slow enough pace in life to pay attention to the world around him. Learning to pay attention and knowing what to pay attention to is an important aspect of the Christian life. In our culture, it's easier to fill your time with things to do than it is to pay attention to how God might be showing up in your life.

Notice God's awareness...

Ex 3:7-8, I have ***seen***, I have ***heard***, I am ***concerned***, I have ***come down to rescue***.

This is a common theme in Scripture. God is above us, but He is also among us. I have come down.

There are two important theological terms demonstrated in Exodus 3:

Transcendent – God is exalted far above the created universe.

Immanent – God is present in our world.

In other words, God is above us and He is also among us.

God is powerful and is bigger than all of His creation.

God is compassionate and is moved by the experiences of His creation.

Do you realize that in every situation you have lived, God has been present with you?

Notice God's response to what He sees and knows...
Ex 3:10 I am sending you.

God has seen, heard and was concerned therefore he sent a regular guy.
God said *He* was going to do it, but *He sent* a regular guy.

This is the holy God who sees, hears, is concerned and intervenes...
He sends a regular guy to lead the rescue.

The proof – *you will worship* God on this mountain.
That's not you singular, as in, Moses. That's you plural, as in, – all of you – your people, my people.
Moses would soon be given evidences of God's power in his life but the key piece of evidence in terms of his calling would be after the mission was complete.