

## Lessons from Exodus 2 10-8-00

<sup>1</sup> Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. To try to understand what was going on within Moses we have to look at Hebrews 11.  
<sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.<sup>25</sup> He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.<sup>26</sup> He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.<sup>27</sup> By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

He had grown up in the lap of luxury but decided to leave it all. He recognized the pleasure of Egypt as sin. The luxury was at the expense of his own relatives. Sometimes we don't see that our pleasure is had at other's expense – but somehow God made it clear to Moses. Except for these verses we don't know what went on that converted Moses, but we know he had a revelation of Jesus. The passage says he valued disgrace for the sake of Christ more valuable than all Egypt had to offer. Moses knew Jesus! I can't tell you the details – we'll have to wait for heaven to know the whole story. Not only did he know Jesus but the revelation of Him made him understand he had to serve God or mammon. He knew he couldn't have it both ways. He persevered. That is what he was doing in the wilderness with those sheep. He had taken a stand and it came at the loss of all the luxury. But Moses had something he considered more valuable. Here he is in the desert, enduring, persevering, when the LORD visits him again.

He believes in the God of his Fathers and knows He is worth more than the things of the world, but he doesn't know how he fits into what God is doing in the world. It's been awhile since he had a revelation of God. He needs some fresh inspiration, and that is exactly what Horeb means, fresh inspiration. That was the name of the mountain he led his flock to.

<sup>2</sup> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. We've studied before how the angel of the LORD is Jesus. So this is his second revelation of Christ.

<sup>3</sup> So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight--why the bush does not burn up." This flame of holiness is an illustration of incarnation. A common bush aglow with the presence of God. That is what Moses' life was to be. That is what our lives are to be, ablaze for God. Some call it incarnational ministry, which means Christ in us and through us touching the world. That is a miracle because our God is a consuming fire! Yet the bush is not consumed. How can the all-consuming fire light upon our lives and we not be consumed? A life ablaze with the presence of God has already sacrificed itself on the altar of God. But it is a living sacrifice. There is still your personality, but it is dedicated to God, surrendered from your will to God's, an instrument in his hands. And people gather around to watch you burn! Just like Moses drawn to the bush, people will be drawn to see this sight. And God will speak to them from the flames.

<sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

Henry Blackaby says that if this happened today Moses would write a book "How to Meet God in a Flaming Bush" and go on the lecture circuit. There are no more flaming bushes in the Bible. God meets us uniquely and speaks to us uniquely, and has a unique plan for each of us. He has a plan for this fellowship. If we will listen – go to the mountain of fresh inspiration, we will find that plan. No book, or program, or man can take the place of the voice of the Lord to us. And when He speaks, we know it is God! He shows up in the common ordinary things of life and his presence suddenly makes them his holy instrument, to communicate to us his direction.

He calls his sheep by name. Jn 10:3 Have you ever heard Him call your name. I'm sure He has and often does. We just need to turn aside like Moses did, to see and hear what God has to say. We need to come to that place of fresh inspiration and offer ourselves at attention, "Here I am". Here I am, ready to hear and willing to obey whatever You reveal, willing to go where ever You send, to do whatever You ask.

<sup>5</sup> "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Jack Hayford tells us that shoes have the dust of where we have been all over them, our day to day business, going and coming. They are our connection to the world. We put all that aside in these special moments. We honor God as holy devoting our full attention to Him. We declare we are willing to stay right here until we hear what God has to say to us. With our shoes off we are going nowhere. I remember one PK conference where he asked the men to take off their shoes and kneel before God. It was an awesome moment, because you could sense the whole attention of the stadium no longer on a speaker, but turned to a Holy God.

<sup>6</sup> Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. - The sons of Abraham had more sense than most people today. They knew the awesome wonder of a Holy God, his power, his justice.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. We ended last week on this note – 2:25 on the concern of God for our situations. This awesome, terrible God is concerned. He sees what we go through. He hears our cries to him. He is concerned. The enemy of our soul would have us believe God does not care, that He does not see, that He will not hear. But that is a lie. He is moved by our situations, our struggles and difficulties and He has sent a Deliverer.

<sup>8</sup> So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey--the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. The transcendent God has become immanent. The One who is high and holy, who inhabits eternity, has come near and involved in our situation. His concern is personal and present right here, right now this morning. He is just as immanent now as He was then in that burning bush. If you have a struggle today and call out to Him – he comes down to rescue from the hand of our enemies.

Just as He was going to give his children then a special place and homes they did not build, He has gone to prepare a place for us. A land that we did not plant, homes we did not build. About 500 years earlier He had made promise to Abraham that this land

would be theirs and they would drive out these people when all these 'ites' sin had come to the full. Again we see God has a plan and knows all that will be.

<sup>9</sup> And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. Again God declares that He sees our situation.

<sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." God can act without Moses, but when He works He often gives us an opportunity to work with Him, to be his instrument. God calls us all to a place where He is working for the purpose of setting people free in Christ. What ever your gift is in the body, it builds up the body and thus brings us to a place of freedom to obey the will of God, freedom from the enslavement of the world and the old nature.

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" Indeed. He has certainly had a change of attitude from the day he killed the Egyptian. He has learned that on his own he can accomplish nothing. Who are you that you should be an instrument of God to grow this body up in Christ Jesus? ...

<sup>12</sup> And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." And that is all you need. If God is for us, who can be against us? One and God is a majority. It is not you, it is God with you, in you, using you. That is the whole heart of incarnational ministry. If you are His yielded instrument what can't He do? For it is no longer I that live but Christ that lives in me. Just as the Father has sent me, Jesus said, so send I you. The power of Almighty God is within me like a bush on fire, equipping me to be his instrument. I lead people out of the bondage of Egypt, yet not I but Christ who lives in me. How do I know that it is really God that sent me? I see the fruit and know it is only God that could do it. Who am I that God should choose to work through me ... and I worship God as I revisit Horeb, the place of fresh inspiration. Remember these things are written for examples and warnings, Paul wrote in 1 Cor 10.

Have you had your burning bush experience when you know God spoke to you? I know some of you have, others are still waiting. If you are enduring, listening for God to speak, the time will come, maybe when you least expect it. And you will find the mountain of fresh inspiration, and God will give you his direction, his calling for you. This call from God is not just for preachers, pastors, but for every man and woman of God. We all have an equally important role in the body. For Isaiah prophesied that we would all know Him from the least to the greatest. And Jesus declared that his sheep hear his voice. Expect to hear. And then be willing to trust God and obey. He will be with you. What more can you ask? He will work through you, what greater calling could any mortal receive?