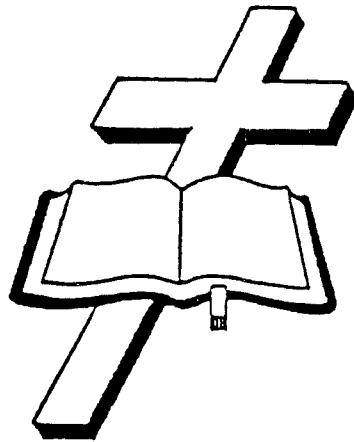


THE BURNING BUSH “TODAY”

(Lessons From The Burning Bush That Speak To Us All)
Exodus 3:1-10



“SEND YOUR FIRE LORD”

- ◆ The Purpose Of The Fire
- ◆ The Holiness Of The Fire
- ◆ The Commission Of The Fire

“And the angel of the Lord appeared unto Moses in a flame of fire
out of the midst of a bush” (Exodus 3:2)

Bill Kirk

“THE BURNING BUSH TODAY”

Text: Exodus 3:1-10

Subject: “Your Weakness Is No Surprise To God” (OR) “Voices from the burning bush to your heart”

Introduction

(Thus far we’ve discovered from Moses In chapters 1 & 2)

#1. Moses Experienced Mistreatment:

- ◆ Pharaoh appointed taskmasters to afflict Israel with heavy burdens. (Exodus 1:9-11)
- ◆ Pharaoh initiated hard labor to make Israel bitter. (Exodus 1:13,14)
- ◆ Pharaoh ordered all the midwives to kill the newborn boys to stop the growth of the Hebrews. (Exodus 1:16)

Lesson #1- Affliction is your friend (when your attitude is right) to help you make greater progress in God.

#2. Moses Experienced Misplacement:

- ◆ Mother (to save his life) placed Moses in a little boat and sent him down the Nile river.
- ◆ All that mom could do was pray, and pray and pray as she said goodbye.
- ◆ For years mom prayed that God would protect Moses as he grew in the Egyptian culture.

Lesson #2- When someone you love is out from under your influence (through your praying) you can keep them under God’s influence.

#3. Moses Experienced Misconduct:

- ◆ In Exodus 2:12, Moses messed up by killing the Egyptian and hiding him in the sand.

(Why Did Moses Mess Up?)

#1. He moved without God’s Strength:

- ◆ He planned a deliverance for Israel by force but it wasn’t God’s way.

#2. He moved without God’s Timing:

- ◆ In zeal he rushed out to deliver but it was 40 years too early.

#3. He moved without God’s Approval:

- ◆ Kills the wrong guy, the wrong way, at the wrong time and hides his mistake in the sand.
- ◆ Moses then runs for his life, sits down by a well and comes to the end of himself.

Lesson #3- When you come to the end of yourself, God has something good in store.

#4. Moses Experienced Miscalculation:

- ◆ At the well (In Exodus 2:15) Moses was a fugitive, a failure, fearful and fainthearted.
- ◆ Wondering – “Can God, will God make something of the rubbish of my past?”

Question: What did God do?

Answer: In (Exodus 2:16), God sends the seven daughters of the priest of Midian to the exact location of where Moses is.

- ◆ Moses stands up instead of sitting in his pity party.

- ◆ Moses starts a new job in the pasture, tending the flock.
- ◆ Moses discovers that God knows exactly where he lives (and where you live).

- *Some of you have come to your well in Midian.
- *Some of you are tired and weary in well doing.
- *Some of you have exhausted your own resources.
- *Some of you wonder if there is life after failure.
- *Some of you wonder, "Can God restore me after divorce, dismay, depression, disappointment, detours, delays, and dark seasons".
- *Some of you will discover what Moses did.

Lesson #4- That when you come to the Lord with your weaknesses, God has in mind for you, a brand new start.

Fact: Moses miscalculated God; Moses thought it was all over.

Fact: But God had something good in store!!!

(Notice The Time Gap)

- ◆ From Exodus 2:15 (Moses by the well) to: Exodus 3:1 (Moses by the burning bush)

40 Years Have Elapsed

- ◆ It was 40 years at Midian State University.
- ◆ 40 years in the Midian desert to learn some things.
- ◆ 40 years on campus with 4 professors:
 - #1. Dr. Time – to teach Moses how to be patient.
 - #2. Dr. Solitude – to teach Moses to walk alone.
 - #3. Dr. Obscurity – to teach Moses to remain unknown.
 - #4. Dr. Discomfort – to teach Moses how to live when the crutches and comforts are gone.

(So Far Moses Has Learned)

- #1. That spiritual ends are never achieved by carnal means. (Moses killing the Egyptian)
- #2. That God's timing is just as important as God's will. (Moses rushed ahead of God 40 years too early)
- #3. That covering sin never erases sin. (Moses hid his failure in the sand to no avail)
- #4. That when we come to the end of ourselves, God has something good in store. (It was the Lord who met Moses at the well in his weakness)

Question: But pastor, why didn't God act a little sooner than 400 years of affliction to Israel?

Answer: Because God is seldom early, never late, but always right on time:

- ◆ Genesis 15:13 reveals that God was following a perfect timetable and knows what He is doing. "And God said to Abraham, your seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs and shall be afflicted for 400 years...and then shall come out".

(Now We Come To Exodus 3:1-10) "The Burning Bush Is Speaking"

Question: Pastor, what is the significance of the backside of the desert in (v. 1)?

Question: What is the purpose of the bush on fire in (v.2)?

Question: What is the message of Moses' response in (v. 3) "Now I will turn aside and see this great sight"?

Question: Why was God pleased with Moses' response in (v. 4)?

Question: What is the lesson from bare feet on holy ground in (v. 5)?

Question: And what difference does it all make in my life today?

(Today)

"What the burning bush is saying to your heart and mine"

I. The Purpose Of The Fire (Vs. 1-4)

Question: Pastor, what was the purpose of the burning bush experience?

Answer: (V. 2) "The angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush" (and)

(V. 10) "Come now therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh, and I will bring Israel out of Egypt"

#1. The **occasion** of the burning bush was the call and commission of Moses to go to work.

#2. The **purpose** of the burning bush was to reveal the manifest presence of God.

◆ The important thing was not the bush itself.

◆ The important thing was the fire that revealed the presence of God upon the bush.

(In Other Words)

◆ If Moses was to be used of the Lord (like the bush was used of the Lord),

◆ Moses must be empowered by the fire of God like the bush was covered by the fire of God.

Question: Pastor, why the Fire of the Lord?

Question: Why the symbolism of fire?

◆ There is a sacred significance attached to fire.

◆ Fire is frequently a symbol of divine revelation.

◆ The ordinary bush became extraordinary only because of the glow of God's presence.

(Again) Fire Is Symbolic Of The Presence Of God

#1. For Israel (Exodus 24:17)

"And the sight of the glory of the Lord was like devouring **fire**"

#2. Manoah (Judges 13:20)

"The angel of the Lord ascended in the **flame** of the altar"

#3. Solomon (II Chronicles 7:1)

"When Solomon prayed, the **fire** came down from heaven"

#4. Ezekiel (1:4)

"When I looked, behold a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a **fire**"

#5. Daniel (7:9)

"His throne was like the fiery **flame**"

#6. Abraham's Vision (**Fire**)

#7. Israelites (Pillar of **Fire**)

#8. Isaiah ("The light of Israel shall be a flaming **Fire**")

#9. John the Baptist (Matthew 3:11)

"Jesus shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with **Fire**"

#10. Luke (Acts 2:3)

"And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of **fire**"

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#11. Hebrews (12:29)

“Our God is a consuming **Fire**”

#12. Moses (Exodus 3:2)

“The Lord appears in a **flame of Fire**”

Question: Pastor, what does it have to do with me in my life?

Answer: The burning bush is a picture of your life and Moses’:

- ◆ The bush continued to burn (but was not consumed).
- ◆ It was an earthly bush (but with a heavenly fire).
- ◆ The bush was only the vessel (but the supply of fire came from God).
- ◆ The significance was not in the bush (but whether or not it was endued with the fire of God).

(But Pastor, What About Me Where I Live?) **Notice**

#1. In (v. 1) – The Lord met Moses on the backside of the desert (in the ordinary routine of life).

- ◆ He knows where you live and will come to you right where He finds you.

#2. In (v. 1) – The Lord met Moses tending sheep while Moses humbled himself with the animals.

- ◆ The Lord will come to us as well if we’ll humble ourselves before God.

Never Forget This

- ◆ The English word “desert” comes from the Hebrew word (MIDBAR)
- ◆ The word “MIDBAR” means “To speak to”

Question: Why did God allow Moses in the desert?

Answer: To speak to him and prepare him for service.

Remember

- ◆ God didn’t come to Moses in the palace.
- ◆ God came to Moses (at the burning bush) in the desert.

What A Discovery

- ◆ That some of our greatest times of encounter with God, can come in our Midians (Our deserts when we perceive God as being far away).

Yet He’s as close as the mention of His name.

#1. Location didn’t hinder God. (desert) (So it is where God finds you)

#2. Humility aligned Moses’ heart. (with sheep) (So it is with you and me)

#3. Response determined everything. (So it is with you and me)

Question: What did Moses do with God’s invitation at the bush?

Answer: He did what I want to do.

(V. 3) Moses said, “I Will Now Turn Aside”

- ◆ It’s a quick response to the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ It’s a “Yes Lord, I’m here”.
- ◆ It’s an, “I’m willing God for You to use me”.

Question: What was God’s response?

Answer: He did what He still does.

(V. 4) "And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called him"

- ◆ The Lord saw when Moses turned aside.
- ◆ And the Lord sees when you turn aside to have an audience with Him.

Question: Is there anything you need to turn from to get closer to God?

Answer: Is there anything keeping you from God's best and His approval?

II. The Holiness Of The Fire (V. 5)

Question: What did God say to Moses after Moses said, "Here am I"?

Answer: (V. 5) "Draw not hither; put off thy shoes from off thy feet".

(Why?)

"For the place where you stand is Holy Ground"

Question: Isn't this out in the desert (and not in a church gathering?) Yes!!!

(What Is The Meaning?)

- ◆ That the presence of God sanctifies and accompanies you on the ground you stand upon.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Wherever you go, in God's will is holy ground.
- ◆ Wherever you go with a clear conscience, is holy ground.
- ◆ Wherever you go where Jesus feels comfortable, is holy ground.

In (v. 5) "Draw not nigh hither" (Means):

- ◆ We dare not approach God on our terms but His.
- ◆ We dare not approach God with unconfessed sin.
- ◆ We dare not approach God haphazardly.
- ◆ We dare not approach God with unholy hearts.
- ◆ We dare not approach God pretending in any way.
- ◆ We dare not approach God without clean hands.

(Why Not Pastor?)

(V. 5) "Because it is Holy Ground"

(Remember Saints)

- ◆ We're not praying for a **Hollow Spirit** (that is shallow and lacks the fear of God),
- ◆ We're not praying for a **Happy Spirit**, (that just laughs away the days and nights),
- ◆ We're not praying for a **Hollywood Spirit**, (that entertains our 5 senses with the worlds methods),
- ◆ But we're praying for a visitation of the **Holy Spirit** (where the fire of God consumes us, empowers us, transforms us, and rearranges every attitude and activity out of line).

Why take your shoes off? Because shoes are dirt collectors.

Malachi 3:3 "He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver"

Question: Why is Jesus sitting? (Because)

Answer: The refiner always sits so that he can watch the metal carefully.

- ◆ If the metal is left a minute too long or a minute too short, it is spoiled and ruined.

Question: Why the refiner's fire pastor?

#1. Because of your potential in God

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(Proverbs 25:4) "Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer".

#2. Because of the will of God for you

(I Thessalonians 4:3,4) "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification...that you should know how to possess your vessel in sanctification and honor"

#3. Because of the Holy Spirit's ministry

(John 16:8) "When the Spirit is come, He will convict of sin"

#4. Because of the rejection of every counterfeit

(Jeremiah 6:29,30) "The bellows are burned, the lead is consumed in the fire, the founder melteth in vain...reprobate silver shall men call them because the Lord hath rejected them"

(It Is The Ministry Of Fire)

#1. The refiner removes the dross from the ore.

#2. The purpose is to make the silver shine.

#3. What Jesus did in person at His first coming, He does now by His Holy Spirit"

(What Is The Fire Of God?)

- ◆ It is the Holy Spirit penetrating and exposing and extracting everything that taints and stains the image of Jesus in me. (Repeat)

#1 - The purpose of the bush on fire, is to show us our need of God.

#2 - The Holiness of the bush on fire, is to teach us how to approach a Holy God.

III. The Commission Of The Fire (Vs. 7-10)

(V. 7) The Lord said, "I have seen the affliction of my people, and I know their sorrows"

(V. 8) "I am come down to deliver them"

(V. 9) "I've seen the oppression of the enemy"

(V. 10) "I am sending you out to do something"

- ◆ Moses gave six objections as to why he was too weak for God to use him.
- ◆ Then in Exodus 4:14 "And God got angry with Moses' excuses" (Why angry?)
- ◆ Because it's not the bush that gets the job done.
- ◆ It's the degree of fire that gets the job done through you!!!
- ◆ There is no anointing for a couch potato.
- ◆ But there is sufficient fire for everyone...

#1 - Who will turn aside (narrow their interests) and seek the Lord?

#2 - Who will approach God on His terms (with a clear conscience)?

#3 - Who will say "Yes Lord use me, I'm willing to give you 100% of my life" (to benefit another)?

Amen!

Bill Kirk, Pastor