

Sermon - Can You Relate to the Word?

Exodus 3-4:5

Preached at Cloverdale Baptist Church, 7/10/22

Exodus 3

Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. ² And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. ⁴ And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. ⁵ And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

Verse 1 – Moses a shepherd. Leading sheep in the desert and comes to God’s mountain or Horeb = Sinai. He had logged some time leading sheep in desert conditions. How did he get into this position? His mistakes and bad decisions while in Egypt caused him to now be in this situation.

- I can relate to being on the backside of the wilderness as a result of my own decisions and mistakes or chasing the things of the world.

Verse 2 – Lord gets his attention, shows him a flame out of a bush. Bush was on fire.....looked like the bush should have been consumed but it wasn’t. It was still there.

- I can relate to seeing a burning bush, something small and insignificant, that shouldn’t be there...should have perished by now but still on fire, small, but on fire and still there.
- To me, Cloverdale is that burning bush. I’m trying to see why the bush is not burnt.

Verse 3 – The bush attracted his attention so he turned aside. Changed direction to see why the bush was still there...because it should have been burned up.

- I can relate, because I was headed in another direction, going through my routine and decided to change direction and visit the bush because it should have been burned up by now. Should have perished by now.

Verse 4 – God speaks from the bush. Calls him twice and Moses answers the call.

- I can relate because God is still speaking to me from this bush. The question is can you put yourself in the story? Can you hear a message from God today from this bush? There is still a fire in this place.
- God doesn’t call him, until he sees him turn aside to check out the bush.
- If God is in the bush, He will keep you.

- Several guests came by last week to check out the bush. They turned aside and contacted me because they heard a message from the burning bush and they got excited about wanting to help us reach others. The bush is still on fire.

Verse 5 – Already on holy ground but can't come any closer until he humbled himself and took something off. Holiness must be involved in the next move.

⁶ Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. ⁷ And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; ⁸ And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ¹⁰ Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

Verse 6 – God wants him to know who it is that is calling him.

- I can relate, I really needed to be sure it was God talking and not anybody else coming out of the bush.

Verse 7 – God tells him He has heard the cries of his people.

- Being humble and crying out to God is always the first step to salvation and revival. We need to start there before we go any further on this journey.

Verse 8 – God's purpose is to deliver them from bondage and bring them up....take them someplace higher into a good place, a much larger place that someone else was enjoying right now. Milk and honey spot. What some others are enjoying right now, God wants them to experience soon.

- I can relate. I believe God will do for us what He did for them. He moved them from where they were and brought them to a higher place where they could enjoy something they didn't have now but others were enjoying. God wanted them to experience something that others had that was missing in the place they were now.
- Can you relate? Do you believe that God can do for us, what He did for them? Can He lift us up into someplace higher and better than we are now?
- Does He want this church to enjoy something soon that is missing now but that other places are enjoying. Higher praise, higher worship, higher service, does He wanna take us higher in Him?
- Not only can He, He wants to!
 - If He did it for Israel, He can do it for us.

Verse 9 – God hears our prayers and sends us out for a purpose. He wants to use us for His glory.

¹¹ And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? ¹² And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. ¹³ And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? ¹⁴ And God said unto Moses, I Am That I Am: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I Am hath sent me unto you.

Verse 11 – Issue is not who you are but who is with you. Moses has some concerns because he looks at himself and his condition and doesn't see how he can pull this off.

- Sadly, I can relate. Who am I? I have no special connections, not originally from here, no great special skills I can think of. Who am I to handle this assignment?

Verse 12 – Token of how he will know that God will be with him.....he will bring the people out of Egypt and to the place where he was standing now....holy ground. Need a leader that has been there and done that before.

- I can relate to the fact that I need God with me....and we need God with us on this journey.
- I can relate to asking God, take a look at this situation and people start asking me why am I here, I can let them know the Great I Am sent me. Treating this commission like this.

Verse 15 – I Am...the same name back then is the same name and same God today. Perhaps then it is the same plan, same steps, same route to success and favor. You can't go higher and receive His best until you come out of the place you are at now.

Verse 16 – God visits those in need.....perhaps that is why we are called to visit those in need. We are taking on one of His characteristics. He sees what was being done to them. He is interested in what they are going through.....meaning God will come see about His folks after a while to observe the condition.

Chapter 4

And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee. ² And the Lord said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. ³ And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. ⁴ And the Lord said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: ⁵ That they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.



Verse 1 - After all these promises...Moses still complains about the assignment. More worried about what he thinks they will say rather than what God just said. You will never have all the answers but you will have what you need to get started...that's faith.

He is afraid that they won't believe him. God says in 3:18 they will listen; Moses says they will not listen and believe.

Rod – tools used by shepherds to guide and protect sheep. Also a symbol of authority like a scepter; authority to rule.

Why turn into a serpent? Symbol of the devil, Egyptian symbol of authority. MH – power of the devil; leprosy the power of sin.

What is that in your hand? This reflects a precious principle regarding how God uses people - God used what Moses had in his **hand**. Moses' years of tending sheep were not useless. Those years had put into Moses **hand** things he could use for God's glory.

Rod turns into a snake....something not desired and he ran from it. God says go back and pick it up again. Probably didn't want to pick it up again because of what it turned into but he obeys and what he had just ran from was now under his control. That's a pretty neat trick.

- God might ask you to do some uncomfortable and scary stuff....but if He told you, it will come out nice.

Moses life: God says pick it up at the end; it turns into something he can use again. Restored.