

The God Who Is...
Exodus 2:23
Berean Baptist Church
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INTRODUCTION

Forty years - it had been forty years since Moses had decided to save his people from slavery. Moses made the choice to stand for what was right. He chose to turn his back on the Egyptians that raised him, on wealth, power, and a future so that he could save his people from bondage. And Moses failed.

Israel rejected him; he gave up everything for Israel, but now he was just a goat herder in the desert. Moses must have thought that his rejection meant he was a failure. But God too knows what it is to be rejected by those he wants to save. And His graceful power is often found at unexpected times. Moses may have had no idea that his calling was still before him, and his story teaches you to:

Humbly follow God in your calling because He cares for you, He will be with you, and He is faithful!

Exodus 2:23-25 The God who Cares About our Sorrows

Vs 23 Israel suffered terribly under the heel of Egypt. But the eyes of God were upon them according to His faithful love.

Vs 24 God heard and regarded Israel because of His covenant promise to Abraham, Issac, and Jacob. Israel was to be saved not because they deserved it but because of the gracious promise of God.

Vs 25 “And God saw the sons of Israel, and God knew.” To know people in this way implies intimate, personal knowledge and a jealous care for their well being. How does this God know the sorrows of His people?

Exodus 3:7 ¶ 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...Ex 3:9 Now therefore, behold, **the cry** of the children of Israel **is come unto me**: and **I have also seen** the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

God looks, sees, hears, and knows His people and their sorrows! Often when someone is suffering we say, “God knows,” but what does that mean? Even Moses did not yet understand just how well God knows our sorrows: God knows our sorrows so well, so personally, because “ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. (Isaiah 53:4)”

Your money cannot hear you; your pride will never care about your sorrow; your addictions, pleasures, and grudges will never think about your pain.

Your idols will never spend a thought caring for you. But thank God that he sees, hears and knows!

You must humbly follow God in your calling because He cares for you!

Exodus 3:1-12 The God Who Sends Us and Goes with Us

Vs 1 The previous verse ended ominously with “and God knew.” But for Moses, today was just another day on the job. Today Moses was leading his flock into the western part (the back side) of the desert as he had probably done many times before.

Vs 1-2 Horeb (meaning “dry” or “desolate”) was probably a small collection of mountains. And Mount Sinai was probably just one of the mountains in the area. Moses had probably been here many times before, and he would have seen hundreds of low, scrub-thorn bushes like the ones in Horeb. But God's grace appears un-looked for.

Vs 2 and 4 The Angel of the Lord in Vs 2 is spoken of simply as “the Lord” in Vs 4 showing them to be one and the same.

Vs 3-5 God appeared to Moses in this dry, dull place. If God could be found here, maybe God could be among Israel in Egypt. There are many ancient traditions about the symbolism of the bush and the fire. Many think that the burning bush shows how God (the fire) both purified and protected His people (the scrub bush) and how He burnt with holy jealousy for them.

We don't know if the Holy Spirit intended this symbolism, but it is clear that the presence and power of God were found in unexpected places. How often do we miss the working of God just because we aren't paying attention? Do you ever miss the working of God because you are convinced you already know God's will?

Or, are you so fixated by your own success, or failure, that you miss God's intent?

To discern God's calling in your life you must be sensitive to His will and willing to “turn aside” from your intended path! God's calling may come at an unexpected, or inconvenient time. Even as His grace and power is found in the most unexpected places like a scrub-thorn bush in the middle of a desert.

Vs 5 - 6 Moses had Godly fear so that he would not look directly at the Presence.

Vs 10-11 Moses calling was staggering and his question is a very reasonable one, who am I to deliver Israel?

Forty years ago, in another life, Moses had tried to do this very thing. He had hoped to deliver his people only to be rejected by them. Now, Moses is an old man, and his name has been forgotten in Egypt. If he failed forty years ago, how could he possibly succeed now?

“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Vs 12 Moses asked “who am I to do this?” and God's answer is “nobody, but I will be with you.”

And when God has saved Israel through Moses, they will come again to this place and serve God.

To fulfill your calling, you must understand that your calling is not about you. God is not a hiring manager; did not call you because He needed some with your particular skills. Your calling is not

about you!

Humbly follow God in your calling and He will go before you!

Exodus 3:13-15 The God Who Is

Vs 13 The Hebrews had some memories of the God of their ancestors, but they lived in a land teeming with many, mighty gods. Israel in Egypt had fallen into idolatry (Josh 24:14) and now the God of their fathers was going to deliver them, but who was this God? Was he the god of the sun, or of the wind, or of the sea? What made the God of Abraham different from the gods of the Egyptians.

Vs 14 I AM THAT I AM This is God's transcendent name. When you see "LORD" in the Bible it is some version of this name. God is before, and above, the first; He is the one who exists by definition. Unlike the gods of Egypt who could be born or die, *I AM* abides forever. In Colossians 1 Paul explains it like this:

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

And Paul is speaking of Jesus!

Humbly follow God in your calling because He made you and keeps you going every moment of your life.

Vs 15 "I AM" is also God's personal covenant name. By this name, God seals His covenant with His people and invites them to depend on Him. I AM is absolutely faithful in a way that no creature or idol could be: He is, always was, and always will be. So, in hundreds of verses when God gives the Law he repeats his name "I AM." Read Leviticus chapter 18 for a great example of this.

By repeating His covenant name, God is calling His people to do His word and trust His faithfulness.

Humbly follow God in your calling because He is faithful!

CONCLUSION

You may not feel like your calling is as important as Moses'. Has God given children to raise or parents to care for? If so, He has given you eternal souls to care for. Has God given you gifts that could minister grace to your church? If so, He has given you the power to affect the lives of those He loves. Has God given you an honest job? If so, He has sent you into your workplace to be his ambassador. God does not save for selfishness, God saves for service. So, if you are saved, then you have a calling.

Like Moses, your calling might come at an inconvenient time or an unexpected place. But still, you must still follow the voice of God because He cares and His timing is best.

Like Moses, your calling may seem impossibly beyond your abilities. But still, you must follow the voice of God because He goes before you.

Like Moses, your calling could cause you to wonder about God's real character and purpose. And if you

diligently follow the voice of God, you will know Him better.

Humbly follow God in your calling because He cares for you, He will be with you, and He is faithful!