



RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

THE WEEKLY BRICK

January 3, 2010.

As you come to him, the living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 2:4-5

Sermon Series: What God Has FOR YOU!

Week #1: "God Has Big Plans For You" Exodus 3:1-12a

3 January 2010

Moses' story teaches us..

1. Your Entire Life Has Been Leading Up To _____

There are two kinds of calls from God:

- a. general:** where God shows us through scripture that we're to do the things that are general in nature: praying (Eph. 6:18-19), witnessing (Acts 1:8), and living a Christian life (Rom. 12)
- b. special:** where God shows us what this ministry is and to whom it is to be done

As you look at the life of Moses you can see how God prepared him from the very beginning.

- **The Birth of Moses.**
- **The Education of Moses**
- **The Early Ambition of Moses**
- **The Re-Education of Moses**

2. God will _____ until you're _____.

God will never use you in public until He has developed you in private!

(3:6) "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

(3:7-10) "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt...So I have come down to rescue them...So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people out of Egypt."

Forty years earlier Moses had been ready to kill off the Egyptians one by one. Now, as he is confronted with God's plan for his life, the idea of rescuing the Hebrew people generates a completely different response. Moses says...

(3:11) "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh...?"

(4:1) "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The Lord did not appear to you'?"

(4:10) "O Lord, I have never been eloquent...I am slow of speech and tongue."

(4:13) "O Lord, please send someone else to do it."

3. God's _____ Are _____ Than Yours.

For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

(answers: 1. God's call; 2. Wait, ready to be used; 3. Dreams, bigger)

Monday, January 4th *Read Exodus 3: 1-10*

God calls people to serve Him. Just think who it is that calls us to serve Him: the LORD Himself, the great God and Savior who created the universe and sustains everything throughout the universe. It is the sovereign Lord and Majesty of all—God Himself—who actually stoops down and offers us the wonderful privilege of serving Him. This should excite us. It should stir us to seek God’s call, to seek God’s hand upon our lives.

To all who are seeking God, to all who want to serve God, to all who want God’s call upon their lives, this Scripture shows us how we can receive God’s call. This study is about God’s Call to Service.

1. The kind of man God called (v.1-3).
2. The call of God itself (v.4-6).
3. The reasons why God called Moses (v.7-8).
4. The expected response to God’s call (v.9-10).

Read Exodus 3:1-3. First, what kind of person does God call? Moses shows us. Remember, Moses had been the prince of Egypt. Consequently, a disappointed Pharaoh was seeking Moses’ life and Moses was forced to flee down into Midian. In that distant but safe land, Moses met and agreed to work for Jethro, the priest of Midian. But note: all this had happened *forty years* before the present Scripture. God’s call to Moses took place after Moses’ flight from Egypt and settlement in Midian. In recording the significant events of his life, Moses says nothing about this second forty year period of his life. They are silent, unknown years.

But now, forty years later, a significant event occurs: God calls Moses, calls him to a heroic task. Note the kind of man Moses was, the kind of person God called.

Moses was a shepherd, which suggests that he had a heart that could shepherd people. When the call of God came to Moses, he was tending the flocks of Jethro, his father-in-law. The Hebrew has the idea of continuous action; that is, tending the flocks was his job. Moses was a shepherd by occupation. The work of a shepherd was...

- to feed and water the sheep.
- to guide the sheep.
- to seek and save the sheep who got lost.
- to protect the sheep.
- to keep the sheep separate from the goats

It took a person with a very special heart to be a shepherd. His heart had to be both tough and tender, hard and compassionate, disciplined and soft. In addition to this, the shepherd had to spend a great deal of time alone out in the countryside. While alone, he could, of course, just allow his mind to waste time and wander about from thought to thought or else he could utilize the time to develop his thought processes and to draw near God. The shepherd always had the opportunity to use his time to become a man of great devotion and prayer.

Obviously, Moses had spent forty years doing just this: developing the heart of a true shepherd and utilizing the hours alone to draw closer and closer to God. Now God was ready to call him to be the shepherd of God’s people.

Tuesday, January 5th *Read Exodus 3: 1-10*

God’s call does not come to a particular profession. **It comes to a particular heart**—to a heroic heart, to a heart that is willing to tackle a heroic task. God’s call comes to a heart that is willing to shepherd people, a heart that is both...

- tough and tender
- hard and compassionate
- disciplined and soft

1) God’s call comes to a person who does not waste time, but who uses his time wisely; to a person who utilizes his time to develop his thought processes and to draw near God; to a person who becomes an individual of devotion and prayer.

2) God’s call comes to a person who is willing to feed and guide people, to seek and save people, and to protect and keep people for God.

Jeremiah 3:15 *Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.*

Jeremiah 23:4 *I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the Lord.*

John 21:17 *The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.*

Acts 20:28 *Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.*

1 Peter 5:2 *Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;*

Moses was a hard-working, industrious man (Exodus 3:1). Note where he was when God's call came to him: he was tending the flock at the far side of the desert. He was a common laborer, working for his father-in-law Jethro. As pointed out, the job Jethro had given him was hard, that of being a shepherd. A shepherd's job demanded long hours, seven days a week. His work sometimes demanded that he be far away from home, away from his family and, no doubt, away for weeks at a time. The work was also lonely and dangerous.

The point to see is that Moses was a hard, industrious worker. He was not lazy nor slothful. He worked at a job and in a place that few people would, and he worked longer hours and more days than most people would. Thus when God looked at Moses, He saw a hard-working, industrious man.

I don't think that God calls lazy people-often the Bible uses the word "sluggard." A lazy person will not work, not long, hard hours. Neither will a lazy person finish a task, not often. God needs people who will work long and hard at any task, people who will finish the task no matter how difficult it may be.

Proverbs 13:4 The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

Proverbs 15:19 The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.

Wednesday, January 6th Read Exodus 3: 1-10

Moses was a man of faith, a man who believed the miracles of God, the impossible acts of God (Exodus 3:2). The person God uses must be a person of faith, a person who believes God. Note what now happened.

The angel of the Lord appeared to Moses (Exodus 3:2). He appeared as a blazing fire within a bush, a flame of fire that did not burn out nor consume the bush. Who was this? God Himself or some angelic messenger (angel means messenger) that God sent? Note these facts:

- God's voice called out to Moses from within the burning bush (Exodus 3:4).
- God identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exodus 3:6).
- The Lord continued to speak to Moses from within the burning bush. In fact, the Lord alone spoke from Exodus 3:4 to the end of this passage, Exodus 3:10.

In light of these facts, the messenger seems to be the LORD God Himself, more particularly, the second person of the God-head, the Lord Jesus Christ. Note that the Lord appeared as a blazing fire from within the bush, a flame of fire that just kept on burning and did not consume the bush (Exodus 3:2). God has often used fire to symbolize and represent His presence (Exodus 13:21; Exodus 19:18; Exodus 24:17; Judges 13:20; 1 Kings 18:24, 38; 2 Chron. 7:1-3; Ezekiel 1:4-28; Daniel 7:9-10; Hebrews 12:29).

The point to see is this: God Himself was meeting Moses. He was manifesting and revealing Himself, meeting Moses in a very special way. Moses needed a deep, intense, unforgettable experience with God. He needed an experience with God that he would never forget as he launched out for God. Moses needed to see the glory of God...

- before he could undertake the mission of God.
- before he could minister and serve in the power of God.

Every believer should seek deeper experiences with God, to know God more and more, to draw closer to Him.

1) We should seek to experience more and more of the glory of God, God's glory manifested in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

2) Once we have truly seen the glory of God, we will then minister and bear witness in the power of God. The shepherds who saw the glory of God when Jesus Christ was born into the world are a dynamic example of this truth.

Two other examples of men who saw the glory of God are:

⇒ Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1f) ⇒ Paul the apostle (Acts 9:3f)

Thursday, January 7th Read Exodus 3: 1-10

Moses was a man who would stop and seek the meaning of things (Exodus 3:3). Note that he stopped, turned aside, and went over to see the unusual sight, just why the blazing fire did not burn out nor consume the bush. Just think what would have happened if Moses had not stopped and gone over to see the unusual sight: he would have...

- missed the blessing of God.
- missed this deep experience with God.
- missed the call of God upon his life.

Many people are not interested in the meaning of things, not enough to stop and study the real meaning lying behind things, especially the meaning of God and of spiritual things. Many people ignore God and the things of God. They are...

- just too busy and too wrapped up in the affairs of life.
- just interested in the pleasures and possessions of this world.

Most people are not like Moses: they just are not willing to stop and to seek the meaning of spiritual things. The Lord was appearing to Moses and Moses stopped and sought the meaning of the Lord's appearance. The Lord has appeared to us; He has come to earth. We must stop and seek the meaning of His coming. The person who truly seeks the Lord will find Him.

Deuteronomy 4:29 *But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

Isaiah 55:6 *Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.*

Jeremiah 29:13 *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*

God's call to Moses shows us exactly what is involved when God calls a person. It shows us the factors included in God's call. **God's call was to someone who was seeking.** Note when God called Moses: when Moses stopped and sought the meaning of the burning bush (Exodus 3:4). **Then and only then did God call out to Moses.** What would have happened if Moses had ignored the bush and concluded that it was not worth the effort to seek to understand it? Most likely God would not have called him. But Moses did stop and seek to understand the burning bush. God's call was to a seeking man, a man who sought to understand the truth and meaning of things.

The person who seeks to know the truth and meaning of things, and is open to God, will be met by God. God will meet and call the seeking person. The Bible clearly says that any person who seeks God, who seeks to know and understand God, will find God.

Deuteronomy 4:29 *But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

Proverbs 8:17 *I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.*

Jeremiah 29:13 *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*

Luke 11:9-10 *“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.*

Friday, January 8th *Read Exodus 3: 1-10*

God's call was a personal call (Exodus 3:4). God called Moses by name. Note Moses' response: "Here am I."

Two points of application:

1) God's call to us is personal. He knows us by name, every one of us.

Exodus 33:12 *Moses said to the Lord, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’”*

Isaiah 43:1 *But now, this is what the Lord says-- he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.*

2) We must always respond positively to God's call: "Here am I." We must obey God: go and do exactly what He wants.

- Abraham responded, "Here I am." **Genesis 21:1** *Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised.*

- Samuel responded, "Here am I." **1 Samuel 3:4** *Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am.”*

- Isaiah responded, "Here am I." **Isaiah 6:8** *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”*

- Paul responded, "Here am I" **Acts 9:6** *“Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”*

God's call was a holy call (Exodus 3:5). God stopped Moses dead in his tracks. He told Moses to come no closer and to take off his shoes. Why? Because the ground where he stood was holy ground. Note that the ground was not holy *in and of itself*; it was holy because God was there. God was making a very special manifestation of Himself and using the ground for a specific purpose, that of calling a man to be God's servant, God's messenger.

When God told Moses to take off his shoes, He was teaching Moses a necessary lesson, a lesson that every person must learn: God is holy. Holy means to be separate and distinct, different—entirely different—from mortal man. It means that God is pure, righteous, moral, just, and eternal—perfectly so, in every detail of His being. God is holy. Therefore, when we enter God's presence, we must be prepared: we must be respectful, reverent, and submissive.

God is not a "chummy friend" to us. Neither is He "the man upstairs." Nor is He a "grandfather-type" person who allows us to behave like we want and gives us what we want. God is holy—different, completely set apart from this universe—ruling and reigning as the Supreme Lord and Majesty of the universe. Therefore, we must enter His holy presence prepared: we must be respectful, reverent, and submissive.

Isaiah 6:3 *And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”*

Revelation 15:4 *Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”*

