

National Black Evangelical Association 60th Celebration

Good evening my brothers and Sisters in the Kingdom. I greet you this evening in the Name of our Great God and King, Jesus the Christ, The Savior of the World.

I am delighted to have such an esteemed invitation to stand in this place on the 60th year of the National Black Evangelical Association Celebration.

I want to personally thank our President Dr. Mc Cray, our last living co-founder and mother Dr. Ruth Bently, conference organizer Attorney Bently, all of the Reverend Clergy, my colleagues and co-presenters...and all of the leadership of the NBEA, for (again) extending to me this wonderful opportunity.

I believe the theme to remember those who have gone before you is right! For without the

shoulders of our pioneers and founders, we would have no-one to stand upon!

Because of their labors we are who we are today. I am also encouraged by the conference vision...of Memorializing, Messaging, Mentoring, Missioning and Magnifying ...while looking black, moving forward and Lifting Jesus.

(What a vision, and a challenge for our generation)

Because of this challenge I want to lift a portion of scripture, that I believe will speak to this challenge and help us to remember where we are from, reflect on who we follow and revive the faith for which we fight.

Come and go with me to that great book of Exodus. Let us look at chapter 3 and have a little talk with Moses, our Mentor, brother, shepherd and friend of God.

A Ministry to Be Remembered

NBEA: Looking Black, Moving Forward, Lifting Jesus

Ex. 3:1-10

3 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

2 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush *was* not consumed.

3 Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.”

4 So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!”

And he said, “Here I am.”

⁵ Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand *is* holy ground.”

⁶ Moreover He said, “I *am* the God of your 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.*

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⁷ And the Lord said: “I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

⁸ So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

⁹ Now therefore, **behold**, the **cry** of the **children of Israel** has come to Me, and I have **also** seen **the oppression** with which the **Egyptians** oppress them.

¹⁰ **Come now**, therefore, and I will **send you** to Pharaoh that you **may bring My people**, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Introduction:

In the exodus passage we get to see a covenant God establishing a new thing with his man.... In order to save his people....

When God got ready to rescue them he raised up a man. He would send someone that nobody ever expected to come and intercede for them.

Moses was an unlikely candidate to work for God, but God could use Him for his honor and glory in the earth.

This text is a picture of what God can do in the lives of His children, and also reveals how much God loves those that are in need of saving.

He uses humans to lead humans, and servants to serve others. I pray that as we leave this lesson, we desire to obey God in every area of our lives.

We learn that God can do “great things in the earth, even in the life of the reluctant servant.”

There are 3 things I would like to glance at....

1. When God **called** Moses...
2. When God **compelled** Moses...
3. When God **commissioned** Moses.....

I. When **God called Moses**

Now Moses was **tending the flock** of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he **led**

the flock to the back of **the desert**, and came to Horeb, the **mountain of God**.

² And the **Angel of the Lord** appeared to him in a **flame of fire** from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the **bush was burning** with fire, but the **bush was not** consumed.

³ Then Moses said, “**I will now turn aside** and see this **great sight**, why the **bush** does not **burn**.”

⁴ So when **the Lord** saw that he **turned aside** to look, **God called to him** from the midst of **the bush** and said, “*Moses, Moses!*” And he said, “**Here I am**.”

⁵ Then He said, “**Do not** draw near this place. Take your **sandals off your feet**, for **the place** where you stand *is* **holy ground**.”

⁶ Moreover He said, “**I am** the God of your 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.

Note:

When we come to this first portion of the narrative, the first thing we see is that God when God appears to Moses, *he calls to Moses!*

Secondly when he calls Moses, he is already employed, and doing something else with his life somewhere else.

Moses is working in agriculture, as a shepherd in his father-in-law's family business. You could say he was self-employed.

Thirdly, when God calls he appears to Moses, in an unusual way.

He reveals himself as the angel of the Lord, this is a theophany, an old Testament appearance of Christ.

When God calls and shows up he does so in a quiet place... It's a quiet place in the desert that is void of distraction....

Why?

I believe that God knew Moses would have no excuses or misunderstanding of who it was and who He wanted in this location.....

So He arranged for this divine meeting.

Can I say some more?

Dr. Cesar Clark says that there's something out of the ordinary about this bush....

It wasn't like any bush on fire.... It burned in a new way, with a new glow, in an unexpected setting and for no apparent reason....

On one hand it was just like any other bush except it was on fire but it wasn't being consumed....

It was on fire, but no man lit it with matches...

It was on fire yet it was not destroyed...

It was on fire, but the flames were different than other flames....

This fire was different than what he had seen before...

This fire burned with intentionality, purpose, persuasion, and the power of God...

This was a fire set a blaze for a special meeting..... it was a fire set for an encounter with God!

This fire was set to confirm the meeting that God was calling Moses to the ministry of reconciliation...

It was time for Israel to be reconciled back to Yahweh... and Moses was the servant the Lord was calling to do the Job!

Here it is...

This whole appearance at the burning-bush was getting ready to change Moses life.

I stopped by today to talk to us and remind us of our meeting at the bush....

First of all, Before God could use Moses he was brought to the place where he bowed before God and adored Him in wonder, for this is the true beginning of his covenant relationship.....
[take your shoes off this is holy ground]

Servants in covenant relationship with God, know how to **take off their shoes** in humility to be used of God and to walk in power.

Before God calls a person, He always humbles them, and then reveals his Person to them....

Did you catch it?

The memory of the burning bush would be a source of encouragement for Moses during the many trying situations he would face in the wilderness....

God uses this “Burning Bush” encounter in Israel’s exodus to separate **his called and chosen messengers** from the rest of the covenant community.

Note:

Moses was called by God in the earth to follow Him in obedience...***the bush experience proves that....***

Moses was called by God to be placed in a position where he might first see God for himself...*the bush experience proves that....*

Moses was called by God at the burning bush so that he might experience the **presence** and the **holiness** of God.

After God had called and chosen to reveal himself to Moses, he then moves him into a divine task for his honor and glory.

Application:

NBEA you too have had a burning bush experience with God!

You too have encountered him in a special meeting.

You too have heard him speak to you, challenge you, and reveal himself to you.

This burning bush experience had to be powerful so that you won't forget who it is who brought you here and gave you this difficult task.

You needed this bush 60 years ago... you wouldn't have stopped doing the stuff you were doing if it hadn't been for the bush....

You needed this bush 60 years ago, you would've kept your life of ease, if it wasn't for this bush.

You needed this bush 60 years ago, it was given to you as a fresh calling, a fresh encounter, a fresh look at what God was doing in the earth...

And it was a new challenge to experience God and join him in what he was doing in the earth.

Don't forget your bush....

When things get hard.....Don't forget the bush....

When your body aint acting right...don't forget the bush...

When the assignment gets lonely, **don't forget the bush.**

When the winds of tribulation blow, **don't forget the bush.**

When you are ready to throw in the towel, **don't forget the bush.**

When the newness wears off, **don't forget the bush.**

When the hounds of hell get louder and louder, **don't forget the bush.**

When the money gets funny, and the change gets strange, **don't forget the bush.**

When you stop seeing fruit, and the harvest aint looking so revealing...**don't forget the bush.**

When the lord gets quiet, and the covenant seems to be gone... **don't forget the bush.**

The bush will be a reminder of who “called you here” and who He is as your God.

Can I get a witness....

We have looked at what happened when God called Moses. Let's look now at what happened when God compelled Moses.

II. When God Compelled Moses

⁷ And **the Lord** said: “***I have*** surely seen **the oppression** of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have **heard their cry** because of their taskmasters, for **I know** their sorrows.

⁸ So **I have** *come down* to deliver them out of **the hand of the Egyptians**, and to **bring them up** from that land to a good and *large land*, to a

land *flowing with milk and honey*, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

Note:

When we come to this portion of the text we get to see God compel Moses with his own story of oppression and slavery....

God tells Moses about his own people, and the struggle that they are under, and are living with in a sinful world.

Moses is a man with a History of trying to be a pre-mature deliverer...

He was known for trying to deliver Israel by killing off Egyptians soldiers “one at a time”...

Moses was learned in the best schools of Egypt...

Moses was adopted by an Egyptian princess, raised in her home, fed at her table, taught their culture and introduced to the systems and structures of oppression....

Yet, because he was Hebrew....he couldn't identify with the Egyptian privilege and rebelled against their traditions and ways...

In his anger, he tried to start a movement of rebellion against the system...

But his movement went nowhere...

Now he is at a meeting with God at the burning bush...

And he hears God talking the same language that was in his heart 40 years earlier....

Can I say some more?

According to this passage.....

Here we see a detailed report from God. He invites Moses to see what He has seen.

He gives Him knowledge about Israel's current situation, and he reveals what he is going to do about it.

But first he invites Moses to join HIM in what he is doing. God extends to Moses a **divine opportunity** to serve God by actively working in **social justice**, Kingdom **salvation** and initiating the exodus of his people from bondage to freedom through the hands of Yahweh.

Look at the text....

“I have seen ... **I have** heard their cry ... **I know** ... **I have** come down!”

What a message of grace!

Moses often had wondered about the condition of his beloved people, and now he was shown that God had been watching over them all the time.

Secondly we come to understand this text in this manner, because God always calls a leader who can identify with the mission....

Moses is no ordinary choice! He understood the suffering of the Hebrews...so God set up *the meeting* to **compel him** to engage in the plan of God.

Notice thisGod doesn't have to use a compelling argument with Moses...he could've made him do it!

He is God....

- In fact he could've done it all by himself... he didn't need Moses to do anything...
- He could've just said the word, and Pharaoh and Egypt would've bowed down instantly....

- He could've destroyed Egypt like he did the early world with the flood....
- He could've sent Angels to handle puny man and their rebellion...
- He could've used the elements of the earth to destroy the Egyptians....
- He could've done a million different things...

But he chose to compel Moses....

Because he wanted Moses to get to know him... and he wanted to use a covenant relationship to elevate his people and to save them from calamity.

- He is a covenant God.
- He uses people to save people.
- He uses people to help people.
- He uses people to bless people.
- He uses people to serve people.

- He uses people to elevate people.
- He uses people to protect people.
- He uses people to work with people.
- He uses people in covenant relationships because they bring him honor and glory in the earth!

Can I say some more:

Thirdly he compels Moses because he has something better for his people. He has a land and a country that he wanted them to experience.

- He has a place where they can cease from their troubles.
- He has a place where their fears will be no more.
- He has a place that is especially designed for them.
- He has a place where they will be safe from their enemies...
- He needs a shepherd [JUST LIKE MOSES] to lead them there.

- He needs a shepherd who knows how to treat sheep...
- He needs a shepherd who knows how to walk with sheep...
- He needs a shepherd who knows how to love sheep...
- He needs a shepherd who knows how to protect the sheep...
- He needs a shepherd who knows how to feed sheep...
- He needs a shepherd who knows how to heal them when they are hurting....

Did you catch it?

God needs a covenant leader, who will take care of his people and get them to the place where God has planned for them to be.

Moses is that man, and God is compelling him by Revealing their plight.... Revealing their problem, and Revealing their position.

Application:

NBEA the same thing that he has done to Moses
he has done to you...

He has compelled you through story to
remember the suffering of your people...

- You see their systems of oppression that they are living under.
- You see the systems of sinful activity that come to destroy their souls....
- You see the satanic attacks of the evil one, trying to take out the family...
- You see the day to day hardships of bondage wearing on their minds....
- You see the world and its evil assassinations against the church.....
- You see that they are weary and have need of spiritual food....
- You see that they are in danger without a shepherd and have need of protection....

God has compelled you through story...He knows that you can relate to them...

And now the time is right, for him to compel you to take up the mantle and lead them to the place that God has in store for them.

Here it is...

Look at the text....

- It's a place where their needs can be met...
- It's a place, where their desires can be fulfilled.
- It's a place where the enemy can't harm them.
- It's a place where the lord will direct, guide, protect, and meet all of their spiritual and physical needs.

...And you are the one he is compelling to join him in what he is doing.

Can I get a witness?

- He could've compelled anybody, but he didn't.
- He compelled you, because you got history
- You got shepherd skills...
- You are seasoned...
- You been around this place for awhile....
- You aint afraid...

And most of all [just like Moses]
You got a little THUG down on the inside...

...and as I always say....every flock of sheep,
needs a leader with a little THUG down on the
inside.

We have looked at what happen when God
called Moses. We have looked at what happen
when God compelled Moses. Lets look now at
what happened when God commissioned
Moses.

III When God Commissioned Moses

⁹ Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen *the oppression* with which the Egyptians oppress them.

¹⁰ Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Note:

When we come to this portion of the text, we get to see the commission of God over Moses life and for Moses life!

He has been called, compelled and now commissioned to do what no other man on earth has been assigned to do.

Moses is to handle God’s business in the earth!

Moses is to face Gods people, Gods enemies and Gods business in the place that 40 years ago he ran away from.

God is sending him back to the place where he failed as a deliverer...

God is sending him back to the place where his personal-mission bombed.

God is sending him back where he is a wanted man.

God is sending him back to a place where nobody is expecting him or asking for him to come.

Moses is being commissioned to do something, that nobody knows anything about, but Him and God.

Here it is...

This task is hard...aint nobody gonna be excited to see Moses coming.

Aint no body gonna have a welcome home sign because he showed up to do God's work.

Aint nobody gonna help him relocate, take care of his family, make sure he has all that he needs....

Moses is working for God and God alone....

He has been commissioned by God... and a whole lot comes with that assignment!

But God doesn't tell him all of that up front...

He only tells him what he wants him to know....

He only tells him what he needs to know.

He only tells him what will inspire him to do the next thing.

His commission is a divine order and a divine assignment that will cause him to have to lean on God every step of the way.

Application:

I got to leave you now, but always remember family...

In this new assignment that God did not need Moses to do this work.

God could have just said the word and any beast, Bird or other creature in Nature could have risen up to do the task.

But God chose Moses to be a co-laborer for him. We should consider it an honor if God ever ask us to do anything on his behalf.

God does not have to call us, but the fact that he does is a very unique, honor and blessing for the child of God.

One thing we ought to take away from this lesson is that when God chooses you, you have been chosen for a reason.

Moses had spent 40 years in training, and now he was ready to do what God would have Him to do!

He's a father, He's a son, He is a leader, He's a husband, He's a shepherd by trade and God can use all of these things for a new assignment.

This was a beloved meeting at a burning bush!
This was a covenant - calling at the burning bush.

This was for God and people at the burning bush....

And God was gonna get the glory out of the obedience of his man....

Story:

God has a track record of calling, compelling, and commissioning shepherds for the work of the ministry.

When I look at this record I am divinely encouraged to be a part of this fraternity of preachers.

Jesus is the leader of this fraternal order.

When he came down from heaven and was born of a virgin... he had humble beginnings... growing up in northern Palestine.

But when the time was right he received his orders.

It was at the baptism of John in the wilderness where Jesus heard **the call** to set Gods people free....

[It was a burning bush moment]

While he was in the desert, God the Spirit **compelled him** to go into the wilderness where he would be tested for 40 days and 40 nights.... To defeat the one who had already defeated mankind in the garden!

[It was a burning bush moment]

When he came out of the wilderness, he came forth with **a commission** to call sinners to repentance....

It was his commission....

One Friday on a hill called calvary... under Devine orders ... he fulfilled his mission....

They stretched him high and dropped him low.....to redeem mankind.

Out on calvary, to fulfill his commission he gave up his life in exchange for ours.

He died. He was buried.... And Early Sunday morning...

As apart of his commission he conquered death hell and the grave that we may have eternal life.....

So go ahead family, fulfill your calling....

Remember who compelled you and press into your commission....

But don't ever forget your meeting at the bush!