**Moses and the Burning Bush - Listening to the Voice of God**

**Text - EXODUS 3:1-11**

The Burning Bush - **3**Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2**The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. **3**So Moses said, “I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up.” **4**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 come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” **6**He said also, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

**7**The Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. **8**So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. **9**Now, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them.

The Mission of Moses

**10**Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.” **11**But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?”

**ACTS 7:30-35 - 30**“After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning thorn bush. **31**When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he approached to look *more* closely, there came the voice of the Lord: **32**‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.’ Moses shook with fear and would not venture to look. **33**But the Lord said to him, ‘Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground. **34**I have certainly seen the oppression of My people in Egypt and have heard their groans, and I have come down to rescue them; come now, and I will send you to Egypt.’

**35**“This Moses whom they disowned, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’ is the one whom God sent *to be* both a ruler and a deliverer with the help of the angel who appeared to him in the thorn bush.

**Overview**

God has a definite purpose and a detailed plan for each of our lives. We may feel incapable of doing what God wants us to do; indeed, in our own strength and wisdom we cannot fulfill God's will. But God will not send us where He cannot sustain us, and He will fully equip us for His service. Our part is to surrender and obey.

**Lesson Goals**

At the conclusion of this lesson, students should:

1. Understand that God wants to speak to them and to direct them on a personal basis.

2. Realize that God will give them everything they need to live out His will.

3. Decide to trust Him, obey Him, and step out in faith to serve Him.

**Teaching Outline**

I. Moses Gave His Attention

* A. The bush was burning.
* B. The bush was not consumed.

II. Moses Gave His Reverence

* A. He was on holy ground.
* B. He had a humble response.

III. Moses Gave His Obedience

* A. He made excuses.
* B. He made changes.

**Genesis 24:27** "I being in the way, the LORD led me...."

**1 CORINTHIANS 4:2 -** 2 In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

**LUKE 9:51 -** 51 When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem;

God's methods to capture people.

* Moses- God- used a burning bush (Exodus 3).
* Balaam-God used a talking donkey (Numbers 22).
* Samuel-God called in the stillness of the night (1 Samuel 3).
* Isaiah-God used a vision in the temple (Isaiah 6).
* Jonah-God used a great storm and a great fish (Jonah 1).
* The hungry multitudes-God used five loaves and two fishes (Matthew 14;15--21).
* The disciples-God used a mighty tempest and Christ walking on the sea (Matthew 14:22-27).
* Mary, Martha, and the Jews-· God used the miracle of resurrection (John 11:1--45).
* Saul-God used a light from Heaven and the voice of the risen Christ (Acts 9:1--6).

Seek to be sensitive to whatever method God may choose to speak to you!

**HEBREWS 4:14—16 - 14**Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **15**For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin. **16**Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**HEBREWS 9:11-14 - 11**But when Christ appeared *as* a high priest of the good things to come, *He entered* through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; **12**and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. **13**For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, **14**how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

**PHILIPPIANS 3:4-6 -** 4 although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

**ACTS 22:3-4 -** 3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today. 4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons,

**2 CHRONICLES 7:14 -** 14 and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

**PROVERBS 3:34 -** 34 Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the afflicted.

**JAMES 4: 6, 10 -** 6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” 10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

**1 PETER 5:5—6 - 5**You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. **6**Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

Many Bible passages illustrate how people reacted when they realized they were in the very presence of God:

• Knowing they had sinned, Adam and Eve attempted to hide themselves from God (Genesis 3:8).

• Noah, the one man who found grace in God's sight, took care to do exactly as God had told him to do (Genesis 6:22, 7:.5).

• Joshua simply listened and passed on God's directions and promises to his people (Joshua 1:1-15).

• Job abhorred himself and repented in dust and ashes (Job 42:5-6).

• Isaiah cried," ... Woe is me! for I am undone ... (Isaiah 6:.5).

• Ezekiel fell upon his face (Ezekiel 1:28)

• Saul of Tarsus, trembling and astonished, had two questions: "Who art thou, Lord?" and "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9).

• The Apostle John fell as dead (Revelation 1:17).

Moses had many excuses:

• Who am I? (3:11)- -God's answer for this is found in Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

• They will not believe me (4:1)-God's answer for this is that we are not responsible for results, only obedience (Genesis 24:8).

• I am slow of speech (4:10)-God's answer for this is that wonders will not be wrought by enticing words of man's wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:4). Paul acknowledged that he came not with excellency of speech, yet God used him to become the world's greatest missionary.

Moses was not the first or the last one to give excuses to God or to evade His leading.

• When God questioned Adam about his sin, Adam blamed it on the woman and on God who had given her to him. The woman blamed it on the serpent (Genesis 3:11--13).

• When God confronted Cain about his brother Abel, Cain said,".. .I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9)

• When God called Gideon to go against the Midianites, he did not take God seriously (Judges 6:11--16).

• When Jesus called others to follow Him, one said he had to first bury his father ( who probably was not even dead yet); another wanted time to say his goodbyes (Luke 9:59-62).

• Jesus shared a parable about those who made excuses, simply refusing to accept God's invitation (Luke 14:16-24).

**Philippians 3:4-8 - 4**although I myself *could boast as* having confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he is confident in the flesh, I *have* more *reason*: **5**circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; **6**as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. **7**But whatever things were gain to me, these things I have counted as loss because of Christ. **8**More than that, I count all things to be loss [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+3%3A4-8+&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29417a)]in view of the surpassing value of [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+3%3A4-8+&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29417b)]knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+3%3A4-8+&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29417c)]for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them *mere* rubbish, so that I may gain Christ,

**Study Questions**

1. What did God use to get Moses' attention as he watched the sheep in the wilderness?

2. What did God demand of Moses as he came into His presence at the burning bush?

3. What did God command Moses to do?

4. What excuses did Moses give to God?

5. What are some incidents God has used in your life when He wanted to get your attention?

6. How can we show reverence to God?

7. What excuses are you tempted to make that will hold you back from God's service?

8. What changes might you need to make in your life in obedience to God?

**Memory Verses**

**EXODUS 3:4-5 -** 4 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 come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”