

MOSES AND A BUSH

Acts 7:20-29; Exodus 2:1-3:6

Introduction: The Bible is full of examples of people with situations, problems just like ours and how they were handled. If there you are dealing with something new to you, go to the Bible, if you have a situation that is delicate, go to the Bible, if you are in over your head, go to the Bible. Moses is the example for this study. He got in over his head, he got himself into all sorts of situations but somehow God got him out and used him greatly.

I. MOSES SAW A PEOPLE IN NEED

1. Moses was as it might be said, at the prime of his life, highly qualified, filled with a sense of urgency and upon the threshold of a brilliant career, next in line as ruler of Egypt. However he was a man only a few hours away from a tragic blunder that would bring frustration, ruin his noblest ambitions and make him useless to anybody, even God, for some 40 years.
2. **Acts 7:25** - On the basis of what he was (a prince) and on the basis of what he knew, Moses took it for granted that his people (whom he just discovered he was a part of) would accept him for which he believed God had called him. BUT they didn't and he was stumped at his own failings.
 - Perhaps you, too have felt the same surge of holy ambition. Your heart was burning within you. You have dreamed dreams, etc., but nobody understood, all has been futile, useless.
3. **Exodus 2:11** - Imagine the natural impulse of a man moved with compassion for his own people. There was nothing evil, there was nothing implicitly sinful or wrong in his thoughts. It was a natural thing, a feeling of resent to see his people being mistreated. However, he let sincerity, anger and compassion steal/rob him of his true calling/vocation.

II. MOSES LOOKED EVERYWHERE BUT UP

1. **Exodus 2:12** - In his sensitivity to the presence of man, Moses became strangely insensitive to the presence of God.
 - How easy it is for us to do just that and relate our actions to the approval or disapproval of others. So, are YOU "people-conscious" or God conscious?
 - Had Moses been overwhelmingly confident that his actions merited God's complete approval, he would have been indifferent to other's reactions, their opinions would have been nothing.
 - Moses lost his sense of God and maybe you have lost your sense of God for the same reason. You are not called upon to commit yourself to a need or to a task or to a field of service. YOU ARE CALLED upon to commit YOURSELF to God! It is God who will take care of the consequences and where He wants you.
 - There are a thousand needs, but you are not committed to any of these. You are committed to Christ and it is HIS business where He wants you.
2. God is perfectly capable of taking care of His own affairs and the reason so little is being accomplished by the Church today is that we have all too often organized God out of business.
 - The challenge we hear so often today in the name of conversation is "DO MORE," "GIVE MORE" "BE MORE", Go, Go, Go. But God says "**...BE STILL and know that I am God...**"
 - We need to learn how to let God be God.

III. MOSES FAILED

1. *Exodus 2:13-14* - God had saved Moses and watched over him for 40 years. Now God was going to finally use him, but Moses, on the basis of his own sincerity, neutralized his usefulness because he committed himself to the need he saw instead of what God wanted.
 - Moses tried to do God's work man's way and Moses had to learn that it is not scholarship but relationship, not his ability, but his availability that qualified a person for God.

IV. MOSES MEETS GOD

1. *Exodus 3:2-3* - Moses became curious. He made an intelligent inquiry and made a wonderful discovery. Often with us there arises a holy curiosity also, but we are not like Moses, we do nothing about it other than wonder.
 - We are a people who are a "hero" worshipping people. In every walk of life we have become "hero" fans, even in the Christian life, we have "heros." We see men and women whose lives sparkle and there surrounds them the unquestionable presence and power of God. We admire them and applaud them, but we stand back as though they were the monopoly of the few, as if they have a special call upon the grace of God, as though what they had was not for common people. We say in our hearts, "there is a man/woman on fire for God, I wish I could be like that." Then we sink back into our stagnated state of do-nothingness.
 - It has never dawned upon us that we could ever be anything different, so we have to make the best of a sad job in our little own desert.
 - This is the attitude that Paul sought above everything else to avoid in those he led to Christ.
 - *Philippians 2:12-13* - The Philippians had been leaning on Paul as their spiritual crutch, as if God had more interest in Paul than in them. In so many words Paul said, "**...all that God has given me, He has given to you. The Lord Jesus who dwells within me is the same Lord Jesus who dwells in you. What I have, you have. What I can be by the grace of God, you can be. Work out your OWN salvation, it is yours as it is mine...**" It is God, not Paul, who works in you. All the resources God has vested in me are the same that He has vested in you."
2. All God demands of Christians is availability. Available to be what he/she was created to be, the human agent of the divine life, inhabited by - for God, that God may be Himself.
 - God's terms are what matter - what we are on earth in our availability in Him. What a person is is totally irrelevant nationality wise, money wise, education wise, personality wise, and any other wise.
 - Moses began as a failure. Abraham began as a failure. Jacob began as a hopeless failure. David was a failure. Elijah was a failure. Isaiah was a failure. Failure is a bitter school of Self-Discovery. When you discover the total bankruptcy of what you are apart from what God is - you will finally graduate into usefulness.
 - Moses had to discover this and so will you and every other Christian.
3. God called Moses by name. WHEN? While Moses stood at a distance from the bush? NO! When Moses turned aside to see.
 - Maybe you are wondering why it is that you have never had an urgent sense of call, why in your Christian life there is no real driving sense of direction, why it is you drift and seem to have no task in sight.

MAYBE it is because you have never been willing to TURN ASIDE (turn away from the world). When Moses turned aside to see, God called him by name.

- Judged by purely human standards, you may be highly qualified for Christian service, yet you are going about in spiritual uselessness. NO matter how qualified you may seem to be, no matter how gifted you are, it is tragically possible for you to go down in history as another one of those who did not count for God. AND DO YOU KNOW WHY? Because you are not willing to turn aside and see what God has for you to do.

CONCLUSION:

1. **Exodus 3:4-6** - Moses thought that that bush was really something, burning but not being consumed. But God could have used any other bush. God said, "*...Moses, 40 years ago you burned yourself out in 24 hours because you depended upon yourself. If this bush depended on itself as you did it would have been burned up a long time ago. But Moses, it isn't the bush that sustains the flames. It is ME, God in the bush. For you see Moses, Just any other bush will do as well..*"
2. If you are born again, all you need is what you have and what you have is what HE is. God does not give you strength, HE is your strength. He does not give you victory, HE is your victory. CHRIST in YOU. You cannot have more and you do not need to have less.
3. What about it? Are you going to end up herding the sheep for 40 years in the desert when you could be doing great things for the Lord?