



YEAR 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People

Module 3—Exodus

Lesson 3: Moses and the Burning Bush—Exodus 3

BIBLICAL REFLECTION

(A theological and biblical reflection on today's Scripture passage.)

GOD'S STORY

God led Moses to an epic point in his life where the next season of his life's purpose would be realized. The Lord began by identifying the pain and suffering of His people, for He was never unconcerned or apathetic toward their experiences. God was always and is always at work, preparing a way for His people to be delivered from oppression.

To get Moses' attention, He had to take him to a place called Horeb, which means "desert" or "desolation," and use a burning bush. While a burning bush wasn't all that uncommon in a dry and hot desert, the fact that this one did not burn up or become consumed by the flames is what caught Moses' attention. It likely took him a bit of time to notice what was happening; yet, through this sign God began to unveil His plan, His heart, and His sympathy for the Israelites.

For what could be a multitude of reasons, Moses resisted God's calling on his life. He further went to question God about being chosen for something he didn't feel he'd be good at. Moses was lost on what he would do to convince the Israelites and Egyptians that he was sent by God. In this exchange God identified himself as:

- The God of your Father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.
- I AM who I AM.
- The Lord, the God of the Hebrews.

God didn't buy the excuses, and responded back with an answer for each one. The Lord shared glimpses of His plan to Moses, including foreshadowing the plagues, the plundering of Egypt, and the Promised Land. He also highlighted the opposition they would face in order to enter the Promised Land, but this was the plan nonetheless.

OUR STORY

It's easy to think God is done with us when we think our life is stuck. We may assume He doesn't have great things in mind for us, be it educationally, vocationally, relationally and more. We may actually be so caught up with our own perspective and busyness in those areas that we're just trying to get by from day to day.

God can build amazing things out of the uniquely built person that each of us are, and turn it toward His glory. Even with our flaws, failures, and sorted past, He isn't done with us. God told His people in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." This proclamation came to God's people during decades of being in captivity as a consequence of their disobedience.

God used a burning bush to get Moses' attention, and even still he had doubts and needed urging. Moses even went so far as to question God about His choice for this task. Perhaps it was because of his past and the things that he had done while in Egypt, or it may have been he thought there was someone more worthy of the position. Maybe Moses just didn't want to uproot his comfortable life, or all of the above were at play. It's common to think God doesn't know what He's doing when He calls us, but God knows what He's doing.

OTHERS' STORY

Others outside Christianity (and sometimes within) seem to operate under the belief that God only calls the perfect and the pristine into service. Leaders may even feel the pressure to perpetuate this myth by making it appear to people that everything always looks good instead of living a genuine life "out in the open." As we see in Moses' life, he was brought to a place of desolation in the desert because he murdered an Egyptian and was chased from his home in the palace. Moses was far from perfect, proud, or even ideal in the world's eyes.

The Lord always has other plans when we mess up, whether it means shifting us out of something we're in or using that to humble us for what's next. That doesn't change His desire, especially for the sake of others, that we wouldn't sin or rebel. What they should see is that ordinary people are often called in to do extraordinary things, and they can be one of them.

This may have been why Moses wondered what people would think of him when he came back to speak on behalf of God. He was so caught up in his own perspective that he didn't consider what it would have meant to see things from God's perspective.

THE WORLD'S STORY

The worldview of Christian leaders, or Christianity as a whole, is skewed to the point that even some Christians believe it today. Some think that Christians are "hypocrites" or "holy rollers" who have a list of "do not's" that they themselves do. It almost seems like the world expects to see people of God fall down versus run the race of our faith to completion.

Amidst all these high-and-mighty summaries is an opportunity for us to live lives that invite people into our journey with the Lord. A Christian's journey with God is meant to be more about emerging faithfulness than absolute perfection. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

God wants to use us in our weakness and brokenness. Everyone at one time or another forgets that the only person who walked the earth in perfection was Jesus. Imagine the difference if when we did drop the ball it was more about showing Christ in us than our own failures. How greater could we impact the world around us if, if we as Christians spoke more about God's love, grace, and mercy than anything we've done?