

- Last time we met, Moses ran to Midian to escape prosecution for murder.

Rescued some damsels in distress and ended up with a wife.

- Put down roots in Midian. Starts a family. Never expects to return to Egypt

²³ After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery and cried out. Their cry for help rose up to God from their slavery. ²⁴ God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ²⁵ God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

- It's not that God forgot them. He just turned his active focus away for a time.
- **Why did God remember the Israelites?** They cried out to Him. If you want God to act, cry out to Him! Direct your cry toward God! – not horizontal.
- **Why will God respond?** Because they're a good bunch of people? No! 'Cuz God remembers His covenant He made with Moses' forefathers.
- **You say, "well that doesn't apply to me." It absolutely does.** God doesn't save you because you're good. It's because of the covenant relationship we have with God through Jesus. Remember communion. New covenant. Cross

¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God.

- **This is where life has led Moses.** Got nothing but a wife, a kid and a shepherd's staff. The flock ain't even his. It's his father-in-law's. That some humbling stuff right there.
- **He takes the sheep past the wilderness where there's a mountain.** It's called Mount Horeb. This mountain is later called mount Sinai and it's called the Mountain of God. **(MAP)**
- He's only there because his sheep need food and they're in a desert.

² There the angel of the Lord (JESUS) appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up."

Jesus draws Moses to Himself by doing something miraculous and symbolic.

- **Miraculous.** Things on fire burn. Leaves curl. Bushes don't talk.
- **Symbolic.** Fire symbolizes God's holiness. Holy Spirit comes as fire.

Fire symbolizes His presence. Guided by pillar of fire.

Protection You won't be consumed when in His presence.

Burning bush. Hebrew word describing this bush comes from the word "To stick or the prick" meaning thornbush. The Cross. Crown of Thorns. This is a thorny tree where Jesus speaks for the purpose of saving people from bondage.

⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, (So it worked) God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

- **God waited to talk to Moses until He had his attention.** Maybe God isn't speaking to you because you aren't paying attention to Him. Julie and Me.
- **He called Moses by name.** At this point, he's an obscure nobody, but he's important to God.

⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

- **Something we have forgotten is the holiness of God. Set Apart.**
- The reason the place is sacred is because of God's presence.
- **How should we respond to being in God's presence? What does God tell Moses to do in recognition of God's Holiness and presence?**

1. Come no closer! Keep your distance. *God's perfect holiness means there will always be a distance between God and man.*

- a. We must come to him recognizing that difference.
- b. When we pray, "Our Father, who art in heaven (distance), Hallowed by thy name. (Holy, set apart.)"

2. Remove the sandals from your feet Show an appropriate physical expression to that holiness.

- a. Poorest & most needy have not shoes. Servants went barefoot. In many cultures you remove shoes. Shows respect in someone's house.
- b. Moses has entered God's house. His presence.
- c. Clarke says, "Pulling off the shoes was, therefore, an emblem of laying aside the pollutions contracted by walking in the way of sin."

⁶ He said further, "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 at God.⁷ God identifies Himself further.

1. This isn't a new God. This is the God who made the covenant with He is already a part of because of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

2. This isn't a new plan.
Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, (Jesus understands and has compassion for the suffering) ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, (Gonna free them from the slavery that are in and remove them from Egypt) to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. (so, I'm going to give you the specific land these people groups currently inhabit) ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." (This was God's plan in the covenant to Abraham) Gen. 15

- **Now why You sendin' Moses? We just saw how holy and powerful God is? Why's He need Moses? He can do this very easily by Himself.**

- God often chooses to work his plan with and through people.

1 Cor. 6:1 *As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.* God loves to work with & thru people.

- **So, God commands Moses to go to Egypt and to Pharaoh and bring His people out of Egypt. But he's already tried that once. 40 years ago.**
- He killed an Egyptian, thinking they would recognize him as their deliverer, and it blew up in his face. He's been on the lamb for 40 years.
- **Moses had 40 years to come to grips with the fact that he's not deliverer material. He's a nobody, more now than then.** So, watch Moses response.

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" Isn't that the million-dollar question for so many?

"WHO AM I?"

- **When you look forward and you see what is ahead of you, you want to know who you are.** Whose journey is this? Who's undertaking this task?
- **"Who am I?" is a question being asked by many people young and old.**
 - Am I a male? Female, gay, straight, transgender, white, black, brown.
 - What's my identity?** Am I conservative? Liberal? American? Mexican? Christian, Jewish? Muslim?
- **Who Am I? Most try to answer that question by looking backward & inward.** What experiences have I had and what do they say about me?

The identity crisis in America is the result of looking backward and inward to answer the question, "Who am I?"

- Culture and experiences create feelings that lead to desires that we tend to claim as our identity.

- **Moses is looking back at who he was and what he's done and where he is and what he has and is wondering, "Does who I am match the call God just gave me?"** God reveals His purpose for Moses and Moses immediately asks, "Who am I?" *He's been looking backward and inward.*
 - **To truly know who you are you need to look upward** (relation to God) **and forward** (God's plan for you. He made you for a purpose).
- **Let's see how God answers Moses' question about who he is.**

¹² He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." ----**"I will be with you. I am sending you."**----

The identity crisis in America is the result of emphasizing our own identity over God's.

- Who you are doesn't matter nearly as much as who God is because you are defined by Him. He created you. You bear His image. That's why you need to get to know God. Study His word. Keep coming to church.