

## THE CALL OF MOSES 2

### MOSES MEETS GOD AT THE BUSH

#### Doing a Job Well

**Exod 3:1**

**1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. (NIV)**

**The words “tending the flock” are interesting to investigate. For example look at the following:-**

**7462 ra` ah-**

**1) to pasture, to tend, to graze, to feed**

**a) (Qal)**

**1) to tend, to pasture**

**a) to shepherd**

**2) to associate with, to be a friend of (the probable meaning)**

**a) (Qal) to associate with**

**b) (Hithpael) to be companions**

**3) (Piel) to be a special friend**

**Moses no doubt did the job well to be a friend of the sheep. I imagine that Jethro didn't have to go looking for the sheep at night thinking “That Moses**

has lost some sheep *again!* I don't know why I gave him the job – his heart isn't in it. I need to get someone else” It seems that Moses did the job with all his heart and in that respect he leaves us a good example brought out by Paul in his teaching too. For example:-

**Col 3:22-24**

**22** Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

**23** Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,

**24** since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (NIV)

Also see this scripture:-

**2 Chr 31:20-21**

**20** This is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah, doing what was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God.

**21** In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered.

(NIV)

**God Chooses a Way to Speak to Us**

**God wanted to speak to Moses. In this case a bush. Just a plain bush. The last thing you would think God would choose. It comes from a word meaning bramble or thorn bush. God may come to us in an unusual way sometimes when He wants to speak to us. He may speak through the most unlikely source. We need to be diligent.**

**God may speak through someone having a simple picture in the church service or God may speak through a simple word that someone has. In fact, the Lord may use anything to get our attention and it's down to us to take note and consider it. This is how one commentator puts it:-**

#### **Exodus 3:1-6**

**God gave Moses a gracious call, to which he returned a ready answer, v. 4. When God saw that he took notice of the burning bush, and turned aside to see it, and left his business to attend it, then God called to him. If he had carelessly neglected it is probable that God would have departed, and said nothing to him; but, when he turned aside, God called to him.**

**If we want fellowship with God we need to be prepared to go the place where he is manifesting himself. The order is draw near to God and He will draw near to you. He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. He fills the hungry with good things but the rich he sends empty away. Here's a conclusion we can draw. If we are hungry we need to take the trouble to go to Him for food and He will send us away full. Be wary of being too choosy.**

**For example, the person who you might not normally choose to pray for you may be the very “bush” God has chosen to speak through to you.**

**God knew Moses by name. He didn’t say “Hey, thingy....!”.**

**John 10:3 He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.**

**(NIV)**

**Holy ground. In the presence of God even the ground on which you stand can become impregnated with His presence. Some of us have experienced a similar thing in ministry prayer times. Also, it is telling us that we shouldn’t just think we can come into the presence of God without fully realising who it is we are approaching.**

**God has mercy on those who feel they are justified in coming to him in an angry frame of mind but it must grieve His loving heart when someone so small believes they have the right to come into his presence in a way that even Satan himself would not dare to do.**

### **God is Aware of our Situations**

**Read down to Exodus 3:7**

**I have heard            I have seen            I am concerned.**

**God was fully aware of what the Children of Israel and is fully aware of those things which go on in the lives of his children - and you are never forgotten. It would, of course be a sad thing if God has already chosen and**

sent a “Moses” into our difficult situation to bring us out of it but, because God has come in an unexpected way, His action has so far gone unnoticed.

When we cry for help, it may come in the most unexpected way, even in the form of advice we can't take because it isn't consistent with the way in which we believe God should solve our problem.

**Exodus 3:8-10**

### Excuses

**God, having spoken to Moses, gives him the chance to speak and what do we find Moses says?**

**He says he is inadequate for the service to which he is called to (v. 11)**

**He thinks himself unworthy of the honour.**

**He seems to lack courage, and therefore cannot go to Pharaoh, to make a demand which might cost Moses his life.**

**He thinks he lacks skill, and therefore cannot bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt; they are unarmed, undisciplined, quite dispirited and utterly unable to help themselves. Moses feels it is physically impossible to bring them out.**

**Moses was incomparably the fittest of any man living for this work He had learning, wisdom, experience, faith and holiness and yet he says:**

**Who am I?**

**Note, The more fit any person is for service, the smaller the opinion he often has of himself:**

**This is true of a number of others in the Scripture.**

**Judg 6:15**

**15 "But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." (NIV)**

**1 Sam 16:2**

**2 But Samuel said, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me." The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' (NIV)**

**1 Sam 18:18**

**18 But David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my family or my father's clan in Israel, that I should become the king's son-in-law?" (NIV)**

**2 Sam 7:18**

**18** Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said:  
"Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have  
brought me this far? (NIV)

**1King 3:9**

**9** So give your servant (Solomon) a discerning heart to govern your  
people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to  
govern this great people of yours?" (NIV)

However what was the *real* reason why Moses said that and the reason for a  
number of other excuses he made at the bush?

The reason he said it comes from a state of mind that comes out in Chapter 4  
and verse 13:-

**“O Lord please send someone else to do it”**

We'll look further at Moses in the next message