

Does God Have Your Attention?

Exodus 3:1-10



Moses' Story Reveals How God Gets Our Attention

- **Moses had been chosen by God to deliver His people from Egyptian bondage (he was an Israelite brought up in an Egyptian home, who watched the Israelites get mistreated, abused)**
- **But Moses developed his own plan and his own timetable to avenge God's people**



What Happened With Moses and His Plan?

- The end result of Moses' plan was that he killed an Egyptian for beating one of his Israelite brothers and had to run for his life
- Then he spent 40 years laboring in obscurity, wondering about the “what-ifs” at that major intersection of his life
- We have possibly had some “what-if” moments too!
- Does God get our attention when we make tragic mistakes?



Fortunately, Our God is a Second Chance God!; Exodus 3:1

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert (KJV), and came to Horeb, the mountain of God

- Moses learned that our God is even in the “*back of the desert*” in our lives (the dry times, disappointing times)
- Moses had some rough areas in his character that had to be managed (unrestrained passion, quick temper) in order to to lead God’s people
- In God’s “School of the Desert” Moses had to learn patience, maturity, sensitivity; “*wait on the Lord!*”

God Often Appears in Unexpected Ways to Get Our Attention

“There (the back of the desert, KJV), an angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, I will go over (turn aside, KJV) and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.” Exodus 3:2

N.I.V.

- Now a bush in the dessert is no strange sight
- But a bush that is on fire that is not burning up is different
- This gets Moses’ attention (he looks, then goes over to evaluate it)

- **What happened to Moses happened on an ordinary day in his life**
- **Moses had probably settled down to resigning himself to being a shepherd, which he did for 40 years, having missed his chance to deliver God's people**
- **He was a shepherd, a husband, a father, with no other job opportunities in sight, working a regular shift**
- **But the "burning bush" experience changed his life!**

God Often Shows Up During the Ordinary Periods of Our Lives





What Has Been the “Burning Bush” Experience for You?

- **A Disruption in Your Normal Everyday Routine That Changed Your Life Spiritually**
 - **Medical Illness or Medical Breakthrough (insulin pump)**
 - **Major Hospitalization**
 - **Motor Vehicle Accident**
 - **Death in the Family (someone close and unexpected)**
 - **Listening to a Sermon or Reading a Scripture**

Mark This Down:

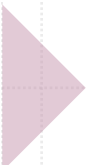
**Our Universe is Not a Random,
“Happened-By-Coincidence” Universe!**

**There is a God-Arranged, God-Controlled
Plan for This World**

**Throughout Our Lives, There are Ordinary
Moments in Which God Chooses
to Speak to Us!**

Observations

- Many of you are old enough to look back at your life
- There were periods in your life that came unannounced and unheralded (no angel's voice to warn you of what was about to happen to you)
- But now you look back and understand that rather than being just another ordinary day, it was a “turning point”, a “burning bush period” in your life
- Even now some days open with sunshine—others with rain
- Some days are a thrill to live and others have to be endured
- Some days will hold a wedding and other days a funeral



**But Nothing Can Keep Us
From a Productive
Relationship With Christ
Except Needless Worry and
Permitted Sin!**

Philippians 4:4-6; Romans 8:35-39

Finally, God Spoke to Moses When He “Turned Aside” or Paid Attention

- When Moses intently focused on what was taking place in his life, God was able to give him instructions that he wasn't ready to receive before. Moses was a different man now.
- When God speaks to us it's time for us, like Moses, to turn aside from our prejudices, our complacencies and even our memories of past failures that continue to “dog us”
- What is it going to take for God to get our attention?

Moses' Decision: “I'm going to stop doing what I'm doing (turn aside) and see what God has to say to me!”

Once God Got Moses' Attention, He Tells Moses That He Was Still Useful

The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying because of their slave drivers and I am concerned about their suffering." vs.7

- God is reassuring Moses that he has been watching the situation of his people, and that he is aware of every act of oppression
- It's reassuring for us to know that God knows where we are in life. He sees our situation, He's aware of it, and He cares; 1 Peter 5:7, "Casting all your care upon Him ..."
- Our enemy wants us to think that God doesn't know about us, and even if He did, that God Doesn't Care!

Here Is the Second Chance Offer

“... And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” Exodus 3:9-10

Question: What Did the Burning Bush Experience Do For Moses?

Answer: God moved him from his comfortable existence back into the work for which he was destined

- I believe that he also had a “new intimacy” with God, on a personal level, realizing that his past failures were forgotten if God still wanted to use him, Phil. 3:13-14



Remember

**God Not Only Looks
For Our Ability But
For Our Availability!**

Does God Have Your Attention?

The Plan of Salvation



Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38