

## **YOU WANT TO, NOW WILL YOU?**

**Exodus 3:1-8a; 10-11**

Moses was born to be Israel's deliverer from Egyptian bondage. He was an answer to their prayer. He was miraculously spared the slaying of Hebrew babies and wound up taken by Pharaoh's daughter as her son for the first 40 years of his life. After he slew an Egyptian, Moses fled to the deserts of Midian to hide.

Moses met and married a Midianite and became a shepherd. After a second 40 years of tending sheep, Moses had the experience that changed him forever! His turning point....the meeting with God at the burning bush.

There are several things to see here:

1. Although people in the desert were used to seeing bushes aflame, no one had ever seen a bush that burned but did not burn up. (a picture of the eternal God, Who burns yet is not consumed and a picture of Israel, the everlasting nation, who burns in the fires of affliction but has never been consumed –so we would have represented the God Moses was being called by and the nation Moses was being called to lead)
2. The “angel of the Lord” Who calls Moses out of the burning bush, is not an ordinary angel, it is Christ making a pre-incarnate appearance in the Old Testament. (Christophany, Theophany) We know this is Christ by what the angel says in verses 5 and 6.

So Moses meets the Lord here and He calls him to be Israel's deliverer....so then what happens? Moses charges off to heed God's call, right? Wrong. Moses begins making excuses to God why he can't be Israel's deliverer. Listen to Moses' list of excuses why he could not be what God was calling him to be:

1. 3:11 - Lack of capability
2. 3:13 - Lack of message
3. 4:1 - Lack of authority
4. 4:10 - Lack of eloquence
5. 4:13 - Lack of willingness
6. 5:23 - Lack of previous success
7. 6:12 - Lack of previous acceptance

Moses was at a crossroad. He had the desire in his heart to answer God's call, but would he act on that desire? He wanted to, but would he?

You and I face the same crossroad today. We've just experienced a meeting where we met God. He was here each service to comfort and encourage us and to confront us about our life. "What are we doing with our time?" "Are we spending our life doing that which is temporary or investing in eternity?" He was that uneasy feeling when the preaching was going on. His Spirit knows how to make us uncomfortable. But it is a valuable discomfort because it makes us stop and consider our ways. He's calling us like He called Moses. It is a call to put Him first and do His will first and foremost in our lives.

You and I can be like Moses and offer a litany of excuses for not answering God's call, but they all add up to the same excuse: we feel inadequate to serve and follow God.

And the fact is...we **are** inadequate. Look what happens when Moses is confronted by the Lord at the bush: In verse 11 Moses is overwhelmed with his own inadequacy, he says "who am I?" In verse 12, God promises to go with Moses but Moses wants to know Who it is that's going with him. Remember Moses said "who am I?" Now look Who God says He is in verse 14: "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM..."

Moses says "who am I?" God says, "I AM THAT I AM" - It's not about us, it's about Him...it's not about our inadequacy, it's about His sufficiency.

The title "I AM THAT I AM" was actually the long version of the name "Jehovah." It's a four letter Hebrew word "YHWH" (Yahweh or Jehovah) and it means "the self-existent One."

Jesus linked Himself with God in the book of John as He declared "I am the true vine" and "I am the good shepherd" and "I am the way, the truth and the life" and "I am the resurrection." He is the Son of God, one with the Father.

Now, if this is Who's calling you....you needn't have any reservations. He is Jehovah, He is the I AM, He is the self-existent One, He is the Son of God, He is the Sufficient Sovereign.

## **1. God was Sufficient to CREATE Us**

Exodus 4:10-12

Moses is complaining about his speech impediment. The Lord reminds him that it was HE Who made his mouth and HE could go with it as he spoke.

To think that we would hesitate to give God, Who created us, our all is a troubling thought. Man naturally rebels against his Creator. God created us for His purpose but because He endowed us with a free-will, we are free to choose which path we follow. It's been taking place since the beginning of time...Cain.

God made every part of us and He has claim to them.

- He made our minds and hearts to meditate on His Word
- He made our eyes to read God's Word and look for others to bless
- He made our ears to listen to the preaching and teaching of the Word of God and to hear the heartaches of others
- He made our hands to reach out to the fallen and help them up instead of holding them down
- He made our feet to carry the gospel to those who are lost

God has the title to you and I and it's time we honor Him as our Sufficient Creator. I don't think it's a lack of desire....we want to, now will we?

## 2. **God is Sufficient to REDEEM Us**

Exodus 4:6-7

God gives Moses several signs to demonstrate to Pharaoh when he appeared before him to demand Israel's release from bondage. One of the signs God gave Moses was that he put his hand in his bosom and then when he took it out, it had become leprous. Then when he put it back in his bosom and took it out again, it was healed.

"Leprosy" is a horrible disease of paralysis that slowly decays the body. It isolates the "leper" from the nation of Israel until his death unless he is healed. If the "leper" was healed, he went to the priest and there was a ceremony involving 2 birds. One bird was killed and his blood was dripped through running water and hyssop over the living bird, who was then set free.

"Leprosy" is a type of sin. Just like leprosy, sin invaded our bodies when we fell in Adam. But we are also sinners by choice. We chose in our free-will to sin against God and now we are dead in trespasses and sins. Like the leper was isolated, we are separated from the Holy God, doomed to die and spend eternity in Hell.

Our only hope is God. The leper could only pray that God would show mercy on him and heal his disease. We only need pray for mercy and can experience salvation, forgiveness of sins, an eternal life in Heaven some day.

The ceremony for the cleansed leper is a beautiful picture of Christ dying for us on the cross. The dead bird representing the dying sacrifice of Jesus shedding His blood for you and I on the cross to pay for our sins. The live bird representing the living sacrifice, which is Christ risen from the dead and you and I risen with Him through faith.

All He asks of us is to be a “living sacrifice” (Romans 12:1, 2 “I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Yet, we still hesitate. We still hold back. He held nothing back for our redemption, yet we withhold parts of our lives from Him, and when we do that...remember, we're withholding parts of our heart from Him.

I really don't believe you want to snub your nose at our Sufficient Redeemer. In fact, I think you probably have a strong desire to please Him. The question is: You want to, now will you?

### **3. God is Sufficient to USE Us**

Exodus 4:1-3

Moses complains that he has nothing God can use and the Lord asks him a simple question, “What is that in thine hand?” Moses looked down to see his shepherd's rod. God had him throw it down and it became a serpent. Then he plucked it up by the tail and it became a rod again. The symbolism is clear, Moses would be used to thwart the power of Satan, that old serpent!

Too often we hesitate to serve God because we don't feel we have anything to offer Him. Moses had a rod. This same rod would part the Red Sea and call water up from the depths. It started out as a “shepherd's staff” but became the “rod of God.” It's because it was used by the Lord.

When we place all we have at God's disposal, it becomes resources in the hands of God! If God was sufficient enough to create us, if God was sufficient enough to redeem us...HE IS CERTAINLY SUFFICIENT ENOUGH TO USE US!

- Gideon put his army of 300 in God's hands
- David put a sling shot in God's hands
- Little boy put his lunch in God's hands
- Dorcas put a needle and thread in God's hands
- YOU can put everything you have in God's hands and He will use it for His glory!

God's been preparing you to answer His call for a long time (Moses was a shepherd for 40 years on the backside of the desert being prepared to lead the nation of Israel.) He knows when you're ready.

God's not calling you to go alone. Just as he promised Moses, "I will be with you," so He promises us over and over again... "Follow me, and I WILL MAKE YOU fishers of men;" "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" and "...lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

He was sufficient to create us, He is sufficient to redeem us and He is sufficient to use us...what will be your answer to His call today? You want to, now will you?