

Lesson 22: God Calls Moses Out to Deliver His People

There's a lot of talk about self-esteem today. Here are just a few of the titles of books that have been written to help people with their self-esteem issues:

- **How to Love Yourself: A Guide to Building Your Self-Esteem When You Don't Know Where to Start**
- **The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You Think You're Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are.**
- **The Six Pillars of Self-Esteem: The Definitive Work of Self-Esteem**
- **The Self-Esteem Companion: Simple Exercises to Challenge Your Inner Critic and Celebrate Your Personality**
- And the list goes on and on.

As a society, we are so focused on ourselves, and finding ourselves. People spend a fortune trying to feel good about themselves.

Well, here in Midian, out in the desert for 40 yrs., Moses was trying to find himself. After fleeing from Pharaoh, he was most likely going through an identity crisis and not sure of anything. He is a weak man who feels powerless, and he is just the kind of man that God can use. God is about to take Moses through his own self-esteem program. Only God deals with our esteem issues in ways that no book can ever address.

You see, the problem with self-esteem books is that they usually leave out God. We can never FIX ourselves as long as we are trying to do the "fixing." We can only find our self-worth as we look to our Creator, our God, the One who made us and come into a right relationship with Him. When we realize that we are created in His image, and created for His purposes—our lives take on a whole new meaning and worth.

As always, let's review last week's lesson before we go any further:

QUESTIONS for REVIEW:

1. Why did the Pharaoh of Egypt make the Israelites slaves? **Because they had become more in number than the Egyptians, the king was afraid that the Israelites might join with the Egyptians' enemies to fight against them and take control of Egypt.**
2. Who was guiding the king in his wicked plans? Satan
3. Why would Satan wish to destroy the Israelites? **Satan knew that God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that one of their descendants would be the Deliverer.**
4. How did Pharaoh try to destroy the Israelites and keep them from increasing in numbers? **He ordered the midwives to kill all the baby boys that were born.**

5. Did the Hebrew midwives obey his command? **No**
6. Why did the Hebrew midwives not obey Pharaoh's command? **Because they feared God more than Pharaoh. They knew that it was an evil command that should not be obeyed.**
7. Did the Hebrew midwives lie to Pharaoh? **Yes**
8. What was God's response to what the Hebrew midwives had done? **The Bible says God dealt well with the midwives and gave them families.**
9. What is the term that describes God's oversight and protection working behind the scenes to accomplish his will? **The Providence of God**
10. Give examples of the Providence of God here in this lesson, concerning the baby Moses?
11. Why did the Lord allow Pharaoh's daughter to adopt Moses?
To protect Moses from the evil dictate of the Pharaoh and to be a witness to the Egyptians of the sovereign hand of God which could reach down and insert himself into Pharaoh's household.
12. Can Satan, any spirit, a human being, or anything hinder God from doing what He plans? **No**

A. Moses saw the burning bush.

Theme: God is all-powerful.

READ Exodus 3:1-3 (ESV)

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

² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.

³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."

After 40 years of Moses being in the desert, God hears the cries of His people under their Egyptian bondage. The Bible says that God acknowledges their cries and plight under the Egyptian rule and decides He will deliver them out of their bondage because of the previous covenant that He had made with their earlier forefathers – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

God first makes contact with Moses through a burning bush. Initially an angel of the Lord appears to Moses in a **"flame of fire from the midst of a bush."** This bush is burning with fire, but the bush itself is not being consumed by the fire!

Suggested Visual: Chronological picture No.. 25, "THE BURNING BUSH"

This bush was an ordinary bush; the extraordinary thing was that the bush was burning and yet it was not being burned up. Because God was in the bush, the bush wasn't consumed.

God is almighty.

- Nobody can do the things which God can do.
- The burning bush was to remind Moses of the terrible conditions of his people Israel.
- They, like the burning bush, were in danger of being totally destroyed.
- But, just as God was in the bush and kept it from being consumed, so He was with Israel, the descendants of Abraham.
- Satan and Pharaoh could not destroy the Israelites while God was with them.

B. God gave His message to Moses.

Theme: God communicates with man.

READ Exodus 3:4-6 (ESV)

⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

⁶ And he said, "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.

Moses didn't know that God was in the bush until God spoke to him from out of the middle of the fire.

Theme: God is holy and righteous:

God makes us holy by His presence in our lives.

- There is no such thing as sacred vs. secular.
- There are not certain buildings that are holier than others (churches or synagogues).
- There are not certain days that are holier than others, i.e. Passover, Christmas, Easter.
- There are not certain activities that are holier than others, i.e. going to church vs. going to the gym or the mall.
- Everything in the believer's life is sacred because God is present and at work within us. We take Jesus everywhere we go.

God told Moses to take his shoes off as a sign of respect to God who is perfect and is the great Creator.

- To be barefoot was a sign of humility and submission.
- Slaves went barefoot.

Theme: God is supreme and sovereign.

The Lord chooses whomever He pleases to do His will, and when the time comes for the Lord to fulfill His plans, no one can stop Him.

READ Exodus 3:7-10 (ESV)

⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,

⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

¹⁰ Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

God then starts to speak directly to Moses. He tells Moses that He has heard the cries of His people in Egypt and that He is calling Moses out to be the one who will go in there and deliver them from their plight with the Egyptians. God is thus going to deliver the Israelites from the Egyptians through Moses!

Exodus 3:11-12 (ESV)

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

¹² He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

Moses had failed when he had tried to help his people previously, so he knew that he was not able by his own strength to confront the king and deliver Israel from slavery.

God told Moses that He would be with him, and He gave Moses a sign.

God promised Moses that He would bring him back to this mountain where he was standing before the burning bush. This mountain was called Mount Sinai or Mount Horeb.

ON MAP 1, POINT TO THE PROBABLE LOCATION OF MOUNT SINAI.

C. "I AM WHO I AM"

READ Exodus 3:13-15 (ESV)

¹³ Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

Moses was still not satisfied. -His own people, the Israelites, had rejected him when he had tried to assist them previously.

- He wondered if they would believe him when he went back to them and told them that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had sent him to deliver them from slavery.

Moses’ initial response to God was that who was he to go down and bring the children of Israel out from their Egyptian bondage? God then tells Moses that He will be with him during this entire deliverance and for him to tell the children of Israel, when they ask the name of their God, that His name is:

“I AM who I AM.”

He further tells Moses to tell His people that He is the God of their fathers – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – and that He is going to deliver His people and bring them into a Promised Land flowing with milk and honey.

What’s in a name? God reveals to Moses that His name is “I AM.” God is saying to Moses and to us that He is not subject to any forces outside himself, and **He is not subject to change** like we are. People change their mind because of unforeseen circumstances or weak resolution. God foresees all circumstances and has no weaknesses. Nothing in all creation takes him off guard and backs him into a corner where he might have to act out of character or compromise his integrity.

He is who he is, and therefore, as James says, “With him there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17). As the writer of Hebrews says, “He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” His absolute name is the granite foundation of our confidence in his ongoing faithfulness.

Another thing that God is announcing to Moses in His name, “I AM” is that **He is the source of inexhaustible energy**. Isaiah 40:28 says, “Yahweh is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary.” God is energy and power. Everything in the universe plugs into Him. He is the source of life and He is the source of our strength every day, and will be for all eternity.

Another aspect to the God’s revelation of Himself as “I AM” is that **we must conform to Him**, not Him to us. Just as players are formed and disciplines and trained by their coach,

we are to allow God to form and train and discipline us as Our God. Just as soldiers learn strategy and skills for winning a war from their commanding officer, so we too need to allow ourselves to be trained in the skills for succeeding in life by the One who knows us and has a purpose and plan for our lives.

READ Exodus 3:16-18 (ESV)

¹⁶ Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, “I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt,

¹⁷ and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.’”

¹⁸ And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.’

Now, after four hundred years in Egypt, Moses had the job of announcing that *now* was the time for the children of Israel to go back to Canaan, and to take the land God promised to their fathers.

This new was probably totally contrary to what the elders and people of Israel desired. In four hundred years, they had set down roots. We’re not even sure if they had any desire to return to the Promised Land; all they wanted was to be made more comfortable in Egypt. But God cared about His people and He was going to settle them in their own land and give them an identity as His chosen people.

D. God knew what Pharaoh would do.

Theme: God is everywhere all the time; He knows everything.

READ Exodus 3:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹ But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand.

²⁰ So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go.

God knew exactly how the king of Egypt would react. God knows our thoughts, words, and actions before we ever think, say, or do them.

He knows everything about us from birth to death and even after death.

E. God gave Moses three signs

Theme: God is loving, merciful, and gracious.

Exodus 4:1 (ESV)

¹ Then Moses answered, “But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you.’”

Moses starts to make excuses as to why he’s not the man for the job. He’s saying to God, “Why should my people even listen to me?” They’ll say that I’m just seeing things or hearing things.

Exodus 4:2-9 (ESV)

² The LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.”

³ And he said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it.

⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, “Put out your hand and catch it by the tail”—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand—

⁵ “that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”

⁶ Again, the LORD said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow.

⁷ Then God said, “Put your hand back inside your cloak.” So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh.

⁸ “If they will not believe you,” God said, “or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign.

⁹ If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

God replies in giving him 3 signs that will cause the elders of Israel to believe Moses is their deliverer sent by God. I understand that the plagues, that come later, were demonstrations of God’s supremacy over the gods of Egypt (at least one of the lessons from the plagues).

The first sign: Moses’ staff turns into a snake. The snake or serpent is a symbol of Satan. By turning the rod into a serpent big enough to frighten Moses and then having him pick it up by the tail which is something no snake handler in his right mind would do since it left the head free to come around and bite him, God was demonstrating his power over Satan, something only He has.

The second sign: Moses’ hand turning leprous. Leprosy is a symbol for sin. In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus heal a leper as His introductory miracle. Curing leprosy was symbolic of forgiving sins, something only God can do.

The third sign represented the symbol of life, which is blood. So turning the water from the Nile into blood is symbolic of God’s power to give and take life.

F. Moses makes excuses

After all this, Moses offers up more excuses as to why he's not the man for the job.

READ Exodus 4:10-13 (ESV)

¹⁰ But Moses said to the LORD, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue."

¹¹ Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."

¹³ But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else."

Moses' excuse here is one of IDENTITY. "Who am I? I am not eloquent. I am slow of speech and tongue."

40 yrs. earlier, he was pretty sure of himself and his abilities, but now after 40 yrs in the desert herding sheep, he doubts his value and ability. But lack of confidence is no problem for God. He can always deal with and use the person who has no confidence in himself.

God's answer is in 3:12. He basically tells Moses that it doesn't matter who Moses is—the important thing is that God will be with him.

Even after all this assurance from God, Moses asks God to send something else. Isn't that like us? God calls us to go somewhere or do something and we ask Him to send someone else. "Oh God, can't someone else do it??"

G. God gives Aaron to Moses as his spokesman

Exodus 4:14-17 (ESV)

¹⁴ Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do.

¹⁶ He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him.

¹⁷ And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs."

Now it is not just the bush that is burning but also the LORD's anger against Moses. Yahweh tells Moses that his brother Aaron is coming and that Aaron will speak for him. Aaron will be as a mouth to Moses and Moses will be as God to Aaron's mouth. God refuses to let Moses off the hook. He is the person Yahweh wants for this job. Yahweh insists on using Moses and Moses can no longer resist. Moses finally goes back home and prepares to leave for Egypt.

I think Moses would testify to us that God does not accept excuses. God does not answer the prayer, "Anyone but me, Lord." God wants what is in your hand, no matter how much you lean upon it. More, God wants your hand, indeed, [all of you, including your social life and all of your life experiences](#).

H. Moses returns to Egypt

READ Exodus 4:20-23 (ESV)

²⁰ So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand.

²¹ And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.

²² Then you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son,

²³ and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son."

POINT TO "AARON" ON THE CHRONOLOGICAL CHART.

Now we're going to see where Aaron and Moses meet together for their journey back to Egypt. **Exodus 4:27-28 (ESV)**

²⁷ The LORD said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him.

²⁸ And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do.

Moses and Aaron went back to Egypt. They called together their own people, the Israelites, and told them what the Lord had said to Moses.

I. Israel believed that the Lord had sent Moses.

Theme: Man must have faith in order to please God and be saved.

Read Exodus 4:29-31 (ESV)

²⁹ Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel.

³⁰ Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people.

³¹ And the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

The Israelites believed God's Word given through Moses. They were thankful that the Lord had heard their cries for deliverance.

Consider:

The Israelites were wise to listen to and believe in God's message through Moses. When we don't believe the Word of the Lord, we are calling Him a liar. The Lord is unable to help those who refuse to believe His Word.

J. Conclusion

What we have just studied is much more than a story about a man named Moses. It is the true history of Israel. It is also part of the background of God's plan to send a Deliverer for mankind.

It is God's story. No one is greater than God. He knew exactly what was happening to Israel.

And He was going to bring deliverance to them and, ultimately, through them, to you and me.

We will study more about God's deliverance of Israel in our next lesson.

Now, let's review what we learned in today's lesson.

QUESTIONS for REVIEW:

- 1.. Why did God decide to save the Israelites from slavery? **a. Because the Lord saw their suffering and heard their cries.**
b. Because God loved them and planned to reveal His love and mercy to them.
c. Because the Lord had promised Abraham that He would make Abraham's descendants into a great nation and that, through them, the Deliverer would come into the world.
2. Why was the bush which Moses saw not being consumed although it was burning? **The bush was not consumed because the Almighty God was in the bush.**
3. What does the name of God, "I AM," mean? **It means that God is the self-existent one. He doesn't need anything or anyone. He was before the beginning of all things. Because He is the Creator of all things, everything is under His power, and He is totally independent of all things. It also means that God doesn't change; He's the same, yesterday, today and forever. He is also the source of all energy and power.**
4. Did God think that the Pharaoh of Egypt would release the Israelites immediately when Moses told him what the Lord had said? **No, He knew that the king would not free the Israelites until he had to. God knows everything.**
5. Did the Israelites believe that the Lord had sent Moses? **Yes, they did.**
6. Is God pleased with and will He accept those who do not believe what He says? **No, God rejects and punishes all who treat Him as if He were a liar.**

Next week, Lesson 23: God Sent Plagues on Egypt; God Passed over Israel

