

# **The Burning Bush- Moses Changed by God's Presence**

Valleys Family Church Sermon  
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013

## **Intro**

- Have you ever asked yourself what it was about the experience at the burning bush that really changed Moses life? What was it about that experienced that caused him to leave the security of the desert and go back in to face possible death in Egypt ? What were the changes in Moses which needed to happen in order to him to fulfil his destiny?
- We will look at 5 aspects/areas of Moses' life which God challenged and changed at the burning bush encounter.

## **Read Exodus 3:1-4:21**

### **God called Moses out of security and into destiny- 3:1 'tending the flock of Jethro'**

- Moses was in a safe place. He was married. He was employed. He was working for his father-in-law Jethro tending his father-in-law's sheep. He had been in the same situation for 40 years. But God called him out of security and into destiny. It was the same as Abraham when God said to Abraham to go to the land that He would show him- he had to leave the place of security and trust in God. It was the same with Gideon when God said to him to go in the strength he had and God would enable him to save Israel from the hand of Midian- Gideon had to leave his security and step into the unknown to trust God. God called them out of security and into destiny.
- What for us is security? What will it take for us to leave our place of security? What is our destiny? Are we living short of what God intended for us? Have we become comfortable? For us to come into all that God has for us means that we have to break out of comfort zones.

### **God overcame Moses' reluctance- 3:11 'but Moses said to God...'**

- Moses threw up obstacles and God demolished his excuses. He gave five excuses:
  - "Who am I that I should" (3:11). "I will be with you" (v12).
  - "Suppose they ask what is God's name?" (3:13). "I am who I am" (v14).
  - "What if they don't believe me?" (4:1). The staff is turned into a snake.
  - "I have never been eloquent" (4:10). "I will help you speak and teach you what to say".
  - "Please send someone else to do it" (4:13). "I will give you your brother Aaron to speak for you".
- What excuses do we give God for the things that He's calling us to do?

## **God gave Moses His authority- 4:21 'perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you power to do.'**

- Moses was afraid, he was running, he was vulnerable, he was afraid of Pharaoh.
- God demolished his fears and gave him his authority instead. Authority – miracles – our authority in Christ.
- If we are to step into our destiny like Moses did then we need to realise our authority in Christ. We don't stand in our own authority but in Christ's authority. Jesus said "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. therefore go and make disciples of all nations." We're not going in our own name, but Christ's name.
- Just as God promised Moses that signs would follow him so also God has promised us that signs will follow us as we go in the name of Christ to preach the good news and as we pray for the sick and cast out Demons and see miracles happening before us.
- Do you know that the authority that you having Christ?

## **God revealed to Moses his true identity- see before in 2:14 'who made you ruler and judge over us?'**

- This was meant as a criticism of Moses but it turned out to be a prophetic prediction. In the same way when people mock us sometimes they can sometimes also be speaking prophetic words over our lives. this was true of Christ when they called him a friend of sinners . They also called him the king of the Jews. They also called Christians Christians. Each one of these names became prophetic predictions of identity. Maybe the enemy has tried to undermine what God has spoken about you and ridiculed you for it. Why not like Moses step into the full destiny that God has for you even though Satan has tried to mock you for it.
- God said to Moses in 4:2 "What is that in your hand?" – a staff – "Throw it down on the ground". God took the shepherd's staff in Moses' hand and turned it into a staff for performing miracles. God put his anointing on a tool that Moses used.
- Moses had been tending sheep. He was now to tend people. David had the same background of being a shepherd, and God took him and made him a shepherd of people. The sheep were the training ground. God will take the roles in our lives and bring them to their full potential.
- In Christ we have a new identity. We are not the old person. The new has come. The old has passed away. He brings us into a true identity, that which we have been created for.
- Do you know your true identity in Christ? Do you know the things that he is called you to ? Are you living in the fullness of what Christ intended for you? What are the tools in your hands that God wants to use?

## **God brought Moses into a relationship with him- 3:4 'Moses! Moses!'**

- He brought him into an encounter with him. Moses experience the presence of God like never before. In 3:4 God calls out to Moses and says Moses! Moses! This repetition speaks of intimacy. Jesus repeats names on numerous occasions. Peter! Peter! Martha! Martha! This speaks of intimacy, loving concern.
- You are known by God, by name. He has our name written on the palms of his hands. Our name is written in the lambs book of life. He says I no longer call you

- servants, I call you friends. We are friends of God.
- Moses also receives the name of God. In 3:14 God says “I am who I am”. This is the name of God. The name Yahweh comes from this sentence. When we say Yahweh we are saying “He is who He is”, because Yahweh means “He is”. In Hebrew, the name of someone speaks of the essence of their character.
  - The name “I am” means that God always is. He exists for eternity it means he does not have a beginning, and he will not have an end. He was, and is, and is to come. Jesus Christ is the Alpha and Omega, the first and last. He is truly eternal.
  - The name “I am” speaks that He does not have a creator, he is the creator. He is self-sufficient, without needing anyone or anything else to exist. He holds all things together and in Him all things consist.
  - It also means that he is stable, unchangeable, immutable, reliable, faithful, our rock. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. His steadfast love endures forever, His faithfulness and mercy for all generations, He will always be good and won't change to become evil.
  - The Hebrew phrase I am can also be translated “I will be what I will be”. When God promises Moses that he will be with him it is using the same phrase, that “I am” will be with him. Jesus uses the same phrase “I am” when referring to himself. He said “Before Abraham was born I am”. When the soldiers went to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus said “Whom do you seek” and they said “Jesus of Nazareth” and He replied “I AM!”, at this they fell down at His feet. Jesus also said “I will be with you always even to the very end of this age”. The “I am” will be with us in the same way as He was with Moses. We need not be afraid.
  - Do we have the longing to know God more deeply and personally? If we are to enter into our destiny in Christ it be because we have, like Moses, developed an intimate relationship with the One who made us and called us to His wonderful purposes.

Each of these 5 areas can only change in us as we, like Moses, have an encounter with God. The good news is that an encounter with God is not a 'lucky-dip' for the select few. In the Old Testament it was certain individuals who were blessed with a 'God-encounter'. In the New Testament the teaching is clear- God's people, the Church, are a living temple in which God lives by His Spirit. We all have access into the Holy of Holies because Jesus ripped the curtain in two from top to bottom. We can choose to enter in right now into the presence of God through the blood of Christ shed for us. The only thing that is stopping us is us- are we prepared to leave our security and comfort and enter into destiny trusting God? Are we prepared to stop making excuses and start obeying God fully? Are we willing to step into the authority we have in Christ? Are we aware of our true identity in Him and living in the light of it? Are we truly enjoying the intimacy with God that Christ has purchased with His blood?

### **Song**

*In the secret, in the quiet place*