

The God of Second Chances

Are you Running, Resisting or Resting in God’s call to you?

READ, REFLECT & RESPOND:

Moses early years in privilege and poverty shaped his thinking and identity. Moses now has 40 years of living in exile to reflect on the limits, losses, and gains in his life. What did God have in store for him now?

Exodus 2:23-3:23

²³ During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. ²⁴ God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. ²⁵ So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

Q: What is God thinking when he sees our pain?

“heard” = accepted

“remembered” = looked upon with special regard, moved by

“was concerned” = God knew them and God kept the whole in his thoughts - bore in mind the sufferings, the wrongs, the hopes, the fears, the groans, the despair, the appeal to him, the fervent supplications and prayers - knew all, remembered all-counted every word and sigh - gathered them to himself and for the present



endured, kept silence – for reasons we don’t know. But we do catch a glimpse of how he was preparing his people for deliverance.

Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3)

³ 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 wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the 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. ³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”



Q: What are some of the ways God works to get our attention?

⁴ When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

⁵ “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”

⁶ Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Q: What are some of the things in your life you are afraid to have God look at and examine?

⁷ The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.

¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

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

Q: How does WHO you see yourself to be influence your relationship to God and his call on our life?

¹² And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

Q: God often makes the promise that he will "be with us". How does that impact what you think and do? (2 Corinthians 13:11)

¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

Q: Do you ever find yourself discussing your viewpoint with God? What does that look like?



¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, '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, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

¹⁶ "Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. ¹⁷ And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt

into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.'

¹⁸ "The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God.' ¹⁹ But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. ²⁰ So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

²¹ "And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. ²² Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians."

Q: Are you running, resisting or resting in God's call to you?

WEEKLY STUDY CHALLENGE

Is there a "burning bush" in your life right now (or in the recent past)? Is God working at getting your attention about something he wants to accomplish through YOU?! Is there a need that he is directing you to meet that you might be unaware of?

Take some time this week to talk with God about this call in your own life. Ask Him to show you what you cannot see on your own. Are you ready to listen and take the challenge?

Three reminders we learn in our journey through Exodus...

1. How God works through ordinary human beings who are courageously willing to put their trust in Him to do what they could never accomplish on their own.

2. The opportunities that struggles and weakness provide to show you God's amazing strength and love.

3. The unique ways that God chooses to accomplish his will and extend his mercy to us all in order to fully redeem us!