

Text: Exodus 3:1-14

Meaning: Yahweh called Moses to deliver the Hebrew people

Big Idea: Yahweh calls us to deliver the captives

Objective: I want the hearers to surrender to the call of Yahweh

Theme: What?

THE REDEEMING CALL OF GOD

MOSES – COLOSSAL FAILURE

Born into royalty in Egypt – yet lost it all in a moment of rage when he killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave

Flees to Midian – where he has spent the last 40 years tending his father-in-law's sheep.

Moses was born to be Israel's deliverer, and yet not a word is said of it to him till he is eighty years of age.

Moses is an 80 year old dude living in his father-in-law's basement tending his sheep!

WHAT THE WORLD SEES IN YOU AND WHAT GOD SEES FOR YOU ARE TWO TOTALLY DIFFERENT THINGS.

THE WORLD MAY SEE COLOSSAL FAILURE, BUT GOD SEES A POTENTIAL LEADER!

God can take a FAILURE and make him an incredible LEADER in a moment! Joseph went from the prison to the palace in a moment!

Today, you don't have to be defined by your FAILURES! Today, you are one choice from a different destiny! That choice is simply submission to Christ and His will for your life!

Christ will REDEEM, RESTORE, AND COMPLETELY REDEFINE YOUR LIFE IF YOU WILL LET HIM!

Also, TODAY JUST LIKE MOSES – YOU ARE WANTED AND NEEDED BY GOD TO FULFILL HIS KINGDOM PLAN ON EARTH!

READ EXODUS 3:1-14

Moriah – the mountain of SACRIFICE

Horeb – the mountain of GOD'S PRESENCE

HOREB – Burning Bush, 10 commandments, "show me your glory", Elijah heard God's voice "gentle breeze" (the still small voice of God)

ANGEL OF THE LORD – PRE-INCARNATE FORM OF CHRIST

The language here is best translated "The Angel which is the Lord"

The Angel and the voice of the Lord are used interchangeably here.

The Angel of the Lord says "I have seen, I have heard, I know, and I HAVE COME DOWN TO DELIVER MY PEOPLE"

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

1. EXPLORE YOUR WILDERNESS

MOSES – humbled himself to become a shepherd. Shepherds were loathsome to the Egyptians, seen as the dregs of society. Moses was born in the royal house of Pharaoh, now he's a lowly shepherd in the wilderness. Also, he's tending the flock of his FATHER-IN-LAW Jethro. It's not even his sheep!

Humble yourself, learn and grow right where you are. Don't spend your time always looking for the next thing or the next opportunity. Grow where you are planted.

WARREN WIERSBE

It is only the servants who know how to take off their shoes in humility that can be used of God to walk in power.¹

God uses SERVANTS AND SHEPHERDS not SUPERSTARS!

If you are wandering in the wilderness today, how did you get there? What bad decisions have you made to land you in this spot?

What lifestyle choices, what bad relationships, what poor decisions, have put you in this place?

Coming to Christ means owning our sin, owning our mistakes, ALL WE ALL HAVE THEM.

By the way, if you think you're a failure today consider:

NOAH – was a drunk

ABRAHAM – was a liar

MOSES – murderer

RAHAB – a prostitute

DAVID – an adulterer and a murderer

ELIJAH – was suicidal

JEREMIAH/TIMOTHY – too young

SAMSON – womanizer

GIDEON – debilitating fear

JONAH – ran from God

PETER – denied Jesus

PAUL – persecuted Christians

Just to name a few! YET GOD REWROTE EACH ONE OF THE STORIES WHEN THEY CHOSE TO REPENT OF THOSE THINGS AND FOLLOW CHRIST!

Proverbs 28:13

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who **confesses** and **forsakes** them will obtain mercy.

MOSES SAW MORE OF GOD IN THE WILDERNESS THAN HE EVER DID IN PHAROAH'S PALACE!

2. EMBODY GOD'S HOLINESS

As Moses is leading the sheep around the side of Mt. Sinai he sees a bush on fire. He goes in to take a closer look and the Lord calls to him from the bush, and he tells him to take his shoes off because he was standing on holy ground.

MOSES, MOSES – in semitic culture when a name was spoken twice it denoted endearment, affection, and even friendship.

GOD WASN'T ANGRY WITH MOSES – He had a plan for Moses and called Him out in love and grace. God too calls us out in His grace and mercy to fulfill His Kingdom mission.

GOD'S HOLY PRESENCE

Yahweh told Moses to take His shoes off because He was standing on holy ground.

Eastern culture – this is a sign of reverence and respect.

Southeast Asia Take shoes off at the door

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, [*Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Ex 3:1–6.

On a mission trip with one of our mission partners in Southeast Asia, every time we came to a village church everyone took their shoes off at the door. So, there I was sitting up front, in slacks and a button down shirt, sometimes even in a suit and tie, with my shoes off. WHY? Because they considered God's house a reverent place that you didn't bring the filth of the world into.

You take your shoes off for two reasons:

1. Because you want to show respect
2. Because you want to sit and stay for a while

GOD'S HOLY PERSON

YAHWEH – Great I Am

“I AM WHO I AM” or “I was, I am, I always will be!

Self-existent one. All sufficient one.

The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run into it and are safe!

YHWH – tetragrammaton in Hebrew

When an ancient Hebrew scribe was preparing to write the name of YAHWEH God, he would go to a Mikvah, a small baptismal pool, and ceremonially cleanse himself (dip completely in the pool), come back to the scriptorium, choose a new quill, and write the Name.

The call of God is a call to HOLINESS

1 Peter 1:15

but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct

Holiness is not perfection, it is being tethered to the Holy One
Holiness means set apart for God's purpose.

3. EMBRACE YOUR WEAKNESS

Moses had a litany of excuses for God when God called him out.

Words to describe Moses here:

Insecurity
Insufficiency
Intimidation
Inadequacy

Moses said He was:

UNQUALIFIED
UNPREPARED
UNFIT
UNABLE

Whenever we look at God and say “I AM NOT!” He says “that's okay, because I AM”

FOR EVERY EXCUSE GOD MADE A PROMISE!

Unqualified – I will be with you
Unprepared – I will educate you (My name is Yahweh)
Unfit – I will confirm your work with miraculous signs
Unable – I will give you a helper

But we serve a God WHO WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER FROM ONE OF HIS CHILDREN!

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

John 15:5

apart from me you can do nothing.

Lay down your excuses today. The same God who took a failure like Moses and made him the great deliverer of Israel can do the same thing in your life and mine today.

FEAR SAYS: I can't
FAITH SAYS: He can!

FEAR SAYS: I'm not sure
FAITH SAYS: I'm sure God will come through

FINALLY MOSES ACQUIESCES TO THE CALL OF GOD ON HIS LIFE.