

A LIFE CHANGING ENCOUNTER

Jkroberts_us@yahoo.com

www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

July 22, 2018

Exodus 3:1-12

1. Last week I mentioned that I felt God was leading me to preach one message from every book in the Old Testament.
2. Whenever I do a series I always try and remain open to other topics God would have me cover along the way.
3. But for now we are going to work our way through the Old Testament.
4. This morning's message deals with a life changing encounter Moses had with God.
5. An encounter with God is always going to have some sort of impact on us; either positive or negative.
6. Whatever our response is has eternal significance.
7. Those who respond positively to the Gospel of God concerning His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, become new creations with new responsibilities. 2 Cor 5:17-19
Therefore if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creature**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and **He has committed to us the word of reconciliation**.
8. As followers of Jesus Christ we will be able to identify with Moses and the life changing encounter he had with God.

I. God got Moses' attention.

A. Moses personified what the Psalmist wrote in Psalm 71:1-6.

In You, O Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be ashamed. 2 In Your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline Your ear to me and save me. 3 Be to me a rock of habitation to which I may continually come; You have given commandment to save me, for You are my rock and my fortress. 4 Rescue me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the grasp of the wrongdoer and ruthless man, 5 for You are my hope; O Lord God, You are my confidence from my youth. 6 **By You I have been sustained from my birth; You are He who took me from my mother's womb**; my praise is continually of You.

1. As an infant his life was saved by the intervention of God.
2. He became a prince in Pharaoh's house.
3. When he intervened on behalf of his people, the Jews, he was forced to flee into the wilderness. Heb 11:24-27

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

4. There he found refuge with a man named Jethro, married one of his daughters, became a father, and a shepherd.
- B. This arrangement continued for forty years until Moses encountered God in a unique and life-changing way.
- C. What got his attention was a bush burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed.
1. We are told that the angel of the Lord, the pre-incarnate Christ, appeared to Moses in the midst of a bush.
 2. The voice of Christ is the voice of God. 4
- D. No one can be saved apart from an encounter with God. John 6:41-46
Therefore the Jews were grumbling about Him, because He said, "I am the bread that came down out of heaven." 42 They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down out of heaven'?" 43 Jesus answered and said to them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. 44 **"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. 45 "It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me."**

II. Moses responded appropriately.

- A. He said, "I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up."
- B. People respond to God in different ways.
- C. Note how the people of Athens responded to Paul's message. Acts 17:32-34
Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, **some began to sneer**, but **others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this."** 33 So Paul went out of their midst. 34 **But some men joined him and believed**, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.
NOTE: Here we see rejection, delay, and a faith response.

III. God responded to Moses' response and revealed Himself more fully.

- A. When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" and he said, "Here I am."
NOTE: God's call is always personal. John 10:1-5
"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. 2 "But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. 3 **"To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.** 4 "When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 "A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers."
- B. In verse 5 and 6 Moses was told that he was on holy ground and in the presence of God.
- C. Later on, in response to a question by Moses, God revealed Himself as Jehovah or "I Am Who I Am." 13-15

1. Many people worship a designer god, a god of their own making. Ps 50:16-21
But to the wicked God says, "What right have you to tell of My statutes and to take My covenant in your mouth? 17 "For you hate discipline, and you cast My words behind you. 18 "When you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you associate with adulterers. 19 "You let your mouth loose in evil and your tongue frames deceit. 20 "You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son. 21 "These things you have done and I kept silence; **you thought that I was just like you**; I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes."
2. God is Who He Is, the great I AM, and not the invention of the minds of men.
 - a. Mal 3:5-6
"Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me," says the Lord of hosts. 6 "**For I, the Lord, do not change**; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.
 - b. Heb 11:6-7
And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for **he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is (Who He Is)** a rewarder of those who seek Him.

IV. Moses reverently responded.

- A. "Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God."
- B. Reverence for God, His Word, His Christ, His church, and all that has to do with Him will characterize the lives of those who have actually encountered Him.
Phil 2:12-13
So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.**

V. God assigned Moses a mission.

- A. "I have come down to deliver My people from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them into a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey...and I am going to do it through you."
- B. Moses' response was predictable, but God assured him, "Certainly I will be with you."
NOTE: When God says, "I will," we can say with assurance, "He will!" Ex 6:6-9
"Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the Lord, and **I will** bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and **I will** deliver you from their bondage. **I will** also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. 7 'Then **I will** take you for My people, and **I will** be your God; and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. 8 '**I will** bring you to the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and **I will** give it to you for a possession; I am the Lord.'"

APPLICATION

1. Have you had a life-changing encounter with the God Who Is?
2. Have you bowed your knee and confessed and embraced Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?
3. Are you living out God's plan and purpose for your life?
4. Do you acknowledge His presence and reverently live accordingly?