

## “THE FIRE OF CALLING”

Ex 3:1-10

*Been looking at calling: Now Moses is called by God – the symbol of his calling is a burning bush. Great lessons for us about calling.*

### I. FIRE AND PURPOSE

A. Our story - Moses calling: His calling was connected to a burning bush

1. *Exodus 3:2-3* the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.<sup>3</sup> Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

a. He was drawn by the bush – which connected Him to God

2. God revealed His plans for Moses' life

a. *Exodus 3:10* ... I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.

1. Not Moses' plan: Searching for/aiming at/working toward; God's choice!

B. So the bush is actually a symbol of Moses! Of us!

1. God has plans for our lives that are larger than we plan for ourselves

a. **God's plan – it pleases Him:** *Col 1:1* Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God...

1. We measure by results – actually secondary: Most important is doing God's will!

b. **God's plan is to bring about His will on the earth:** V8 from Egypt – to the land...

1. We become part of God's kingdom – His larger purposes on earth

c. God's plan involves the salvation of people:

1. *Exodus 3:7* I have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, and I know their sorrows...

2. The burning bush is calling played out in visible form:

a. Something that draws/attracts people – so they can come into contact with God!

b. Involves a physical location: *V7 in Egypt*...

1. People there I have chosen you to impact: Draw/bring into contact with God

### II. FIRE AND POWER

A. The purposes of God were revealed out a bush! *Why a bush? Not a majestic tree?*

1. The bush was a wild Acacia thorn bush: Totally common/ordinary – nothing special about it

a. But the fire in the bush transformed it: Made it able to do God's will; Attraction/impact

1. *Exo 3:2* And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

2. God accomplishes His will through very ordinary people

a. *1 Cor 1:26-29* For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty: 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

1. A. Lincoln: God must love common people – for He made so many of them!

3. Bible is full of this thought: God using ordinary things to accomplish extraordinary purposes

a. OT: Gideon's jars/Tent-peg/jawbone of donkey...NT: Boat/lunch/donkey

B. 2 reasons God does this

1. **To encourage those who lack confidence:** If God can use a bush – God can use you!

2. **To maintain perspective on usefulness**

a. It's not you – it's God in you/through you!

b. As long as we stay connected to God/filled with God – God can use our lives

### III. FIRE AND PROTECTION

A. The key to the burning bush – was that it was not consumed/it didn't burn up!

1. *Exodus 3:2* And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

B. This speaks of the security built in to calling

1. **Calling is not fragile:** Not constant knife-edge; We may lose our calling at any moment

a. Moses – 40 years because of failure; Not consumed!

2. **God's purposes continue:** Through every stage of life/situation we may face

a. Moses has no idea the challenges he will face – but God does: Bush is not consumed!

3. **God's calling can be trusted:** The lie – ministry will burn you out

a. *Deuteronomy 33:16* With the precious things of the earth and its fullness, And the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush.

*Let the blessing come 'on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.'*