

"BURNING BUSHES"

Our scripture has a common theme: God interrupts someone/their plans to show them His plans. Here – it is a burning bush. This is what conference should be: A burning bush that captures our attention so we see what God wants us to see.

I. SEEING THE NEED

A. Constant tension of life: Between the temporary and the eternal

1. **The needs of life:** *V1 Moses was tending the flock...*
 - a. *His job/business...bills to pay/mouths to feed; Takes time and effort*
2. **The setbacks of life:** Moses was here because his plans didn't work out
 - a. He had been stirred to help his people – but it didn't work out like he planned
3. It becomes easy to make the temporary our focus
 - a. *I need... b. I'm good at this... c. Oh, well – I guess I'll just give myself to this...*

B. But God interrupts him

1. Life is not about you!
 - a. If you make life all about you – you will not be satisfied; That's not what you were made for!
 - b. If you make life all about you – you will not be healthy;
 1. The principle of health in life is flow: Rivers! Circulation
2. God captures his attention so he can show him the needs of others
 - a. *Exodus 3:7 And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.*
3. God sees the cries of people right now
 - a. *Addicted/broken relationships/tormented by guilt/never known love/heartbroken*
4. But he wants us to see! *John 4:35 lift up your eyes and see the harvest...*
 - a. *Conference: A time when we refocus on the needs of others*

II. TAKING IT PERSONALLY

A. God makes the need personal

1. **You are the answer to somebody's desperation!**
 - a. *Ex 3:10 ...I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.*
2. This brings us to the issue of calling: God's plans for your life – what He has chosen for you to do
 - a. *Jer 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.*
 - b. **Specific people you are chosen to reach with the Gospel**
 1. God planned for Moses to reach Joshua: Rescued – then trained to fulfill his destiny!
 - a. *I think of the specific people God has allowed us to reach!*
 2. *Who does God have planned for you to reach?*
 - c. **Specific cities you are chosen to reach with the Gospel**
 1. *Your life making impact in a specific city: One you may have never heard about!*
 - d. **Specific nations you are chosen to reach with the Gospel**
 1. *An ambassador has the idea of another nation: Paul traveled to the nations/impacted people across borders!*
 - a. *1 Cor 10:16 To preach the Gospel in regions beyond...*

III. TAKING OFF YOUR SHOES

A. Calling depends on human response

1. *Ex 3:5 Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."*
 - a. **Reverence:** You are going to meet with a Holy God this week!
 1. What is important to you – I choose to make important to me
 - b. **Removal:** Your shoes will keep you from hearing what God has to say
 1. Shoes were dirty: Are there things that should not be a part of your life? Repent!
 2. Shoes enabled his plans/his focus on temporary issues
 - a. Removing them is an attitude of submission
 1. *Acts 9:6 Lord, what would you have me to do?*
 2. *1 Samuel 3:10 The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."*
 2. What does God want to say to you this week?