



EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 3:1-12

1 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. **3** And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." **4** When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." **5** Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." **6** And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. **7** Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, **8** and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. **9** And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. **10** Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." **11** But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" **12** He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 3:1-12

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In June of 2015 I was in Fresno, California and had an afternoon to myself prior to my flight home the next morning. I didn't want to spend this time sitting around the hotel, so I hopped in my rental car and took a two hour drive to Yosemite National Park. During the three hours of daylight I had prior to sunset, the beauty of our Lord's creation



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overwhelmed me. I was truly in awe and wonder at the handiwork of our God. (*"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." Psalm 19:1*). My eyes gazed upon tremendous granite rock formations, ancient giant sequoia trees, amazing wildlife, and several waterfalls including a double waterfall over two thousand feet tall! I took time to behold the breathtaking views seemingly in every direction.

As you will remember, just prior to Christmas, our local church body went through a weekly Sunday series entitled "Behold". All around us on this created planet we can see God's goodness, sovereign design, and intentional purpose. (*"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10*). His majesty and glory is not only found in creation, but in His steadfast love, endless mercy, and unwavering faithfulness. (*"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23*). In Exodus chapter 2, Moses fled Egypt as a murderer (Acts 7:24-29). However, a merciful and faithful God still had great plans for Moses and the Israelites, just as He does for you.

After Moses fled Egypt we found him married and employed tending sheep. When the angel of the Lord appeared in the flame of the burning bush, Moses stopped and sought the site, then he heard from God himself. In verse 5, the LORD tells Moses to take the sandals off his feet, for the place he was standing was holy ground. We too must "behold" our LORD. We must be in awe of Him and be able to express the wonders of the LORD. In our culture the removal of a hat during a prayer is an outward gesture of reverence. Take time in consideration and humble amazement of our LORD and all he has done for us.

Questions:

1. When is the last time you took time to "behold" the work of the Lord? What causes you to be still and ponder His marvelous works (Job 37:14)?
2. Why do you think God chose to wait until Moses sought out the burning bush before He spoke to Moses?
3. Moses felt inadequate (v. 11) despite God's promise to be with Him (v. 12). What reservations or lack of faith hinder your ability to be the hands and feet of Christ?