

SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Exodus
TITLE: The God Who Calls
SCRIPTURE: Exodus 3

DATE: September 11, 2016
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We are in a series on the Book of Exodus from the Old Testament. Why study this book? For one, it's simply an epic Bible story of good versus evil. And, as far as the Jewish people are concerned, it is the "greatest story ever told." But even more, the themes of this book help us better understand the great salvation that has come to us through the Cross of Christ. In the book of Exodus we meet our great God; "the" One True and Living God who sets us free so we can live free in a loving relationship with him.

Think of the important people you've met or hung out with. Now think of the most important or significant person who has ever sought *you* out. It's one thing for Moses to go before Pharaoh and name-drop the God of Israel, but it's another for him to go there saying this One True God has CALLED ME to help set his people free.

So, what kind of God would call Moses?

Summary of Exodus 3

- In verses 1-6, God calls on Moses. Notice God's initiative. In a Hebrew world view, fire is representative of God's presence, or, more specifically, his decisive omnipresence.
- In verses 7-10, God spells out his specific commission to Moses. He is sending Moses to Pharaoh because 'God is coming to the rescue.' He's coming to free them OUT OF slavery and TO the land of the Canaanites.
- In verses 11-15, Moses makes excuses as to why he absolutely cannot go to the most powerful man in the world. But God tells Moses, "I will be with you." He also wants Moses to tell the people God has sent him, using his special covenant-name: Yahweh.

"The God of the Bible, although systematized, psychoanalyzed, and narrativized, remains beyond any simplistic categorization. He is immanent and transcendent; personal and unknowable; omnipotent and suffering; merciful and yet by no means clearing the guilty—the biblical deity refuses categorization. The God of Israel is free, as his self-identifying name announces, but this free God graciously interacts with humanity 'I am Yahweh, and I will liberate you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery' " —Doug Knight and Amy-Jill Levine, Vanderbilt Divinity School

- In verses 16-20, God tells Moses more about what he wants him to do. Moses learns God will work signs and wonders in Egypt to prove to Pharaoh he is not a God like any other.

The God of Israel is an extraordinary God who calls ordinary people. That means there is no name you can drop *or* person you can be sought out by who will give you an identity that is as sure and lasting as God himself. He is the only pure source of hope in the whole universe, and all he wants of us is to trust him.

The God of Israel is a promise-making and a promise-keeping God. 'God delivering Israel' means that he is faithful to his promises.

If we see God for who he is, we will be changed, and we will be compelled to follow him and reflect him. When you sin, you're not trusting God for who he has clearly revealed himself to be. We need to lay down our excuses, set aside our presumptions, and see God for who he really is, specifically as he has revealed himself in Jesus; that's what we need most.

For Discussion:

1. Who is the most important or influential person to have ever sought you out? How did that make you feel?
2. Do you see God as the Bible portrays him: one who pursues and seeks us out? If not, what is preventing you from seeing him that way?
3. Have you made God in your own image?