

• *God was preparing a rescuer*

God was taking note of Israel's plight. The Pharaoh, the father of the Egyptian princess who adopted Moses, died. It did not lead to any change in the situation for Israel¹, but God was taking note of their plight and He was preparing a rescuer².

¹ 2:23
² 2:24-25

• *A vision of the glory of God*

Moses had been prepared. Now there comes the greatest aspect of his preparation: a vision of the glory of God.

1. Moses' call comes amidst faithfulness in small things

1. **Moses' call comes amidst faithfulness in small things.** Moses was continuing in his work as a shepherd and took his sheep to the west side of the desert¹. Then, not far away from where he was working 'the angel of Yahweh' appeared to him². This is like the vision of God that had been experienced by Abraham many years before³. It is something physically visible. The angel represents God Himself. But the actual 'stuff' which is appearing is indeed an angel. 'He makes his angels into winds; he makes his servants into flames of fire'⁴. The appearance is a **partial** appearance of the glory of God, represented by an angel.

¹ 3:1
² 3:2a
³ Gen 12:7
⁴ Heb 1:7

• *The angel of Yahweh – a partial appearance of the glory of God*

2. Moses' call begins with an experience of the holiness of God

2. **Moses' call begins with an experience of the holiness of God.** The first ingredient in any call from God is an experience of God. It will not necessarily be exactly the same almost- unique experience that Moses had, but it is something comparable. The person called to ministry must know God. He must know that God has spoken to him. He must be gripped with the conviction by the Spirit, and by other ways of guidance, that God is indeed calling him into this particular work for Him. Every Christian has gifts which are to be used for God's kingdom. Every Christian has some kind of calling. And God is willing to speak to us to reveal what that calling is.

• *Blazing fire without outside fuel*

The manifestation of God to Moses was one of blazing fire which did not need to consume anything in order to shine. Most fires need some kind of fuel, but this is a fire which does not need to draw upon fuel outside of itself.

• *God's holiness*

The fire spoke of God's holiness. Fire is that which consumes anything rubbishy, anything unsubstantial. It is that which illuminates sin and strikes out at it to destroy it.

• *Curiosity, then awe, amazement and humility*

Moses reacts with curiosity and begins to stroll towards the bush which is burning but not burning. It strikes him as strange as he sees it in the distance¹ and he begins to walk up to it with an enquiring mind and a desire to investigate². As he approaches his casual attitude is rebuked. 'Take off your sandals, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground'³. Then God reveals Himself and Moses responds with awe, amazement and humility⁴.

¹ 3:2b
² 3:3
³ 3:4-5
⁴ 3:6

3. Moses' call began with an appeal to his compassion

3. **Moses' call began with an appeal to his compassion.** God calls Moses to go to Egypt as the rescuer of God's people. He puts the need before Moses. A call to ministry normally involves being burdened with a sense of the needs of others. God speaks to Moses about the sufferings of His people¹, and about His desire to rescue them², and His desire to overcome their oppressor³.

¹ 3:7
² 3:8
³ 3:9

• *"Go. I am sending you..."*

Then he summons Moses to be the one that He will use. 'So now, go. I am sending you...' ¹. But now Moses does not want go! There had been a time, many years previously, when he had appointed

¹ 3:10

Moses' five objections

i. Inadequacy

ii. Lack of knowledge

iii. Fears ineffectiveness

iv. Lacks appropriate gifts

v. Prefers someone else

• We often want to do God's work for the wrong reasons

• The ability is not the call

• When we truly see what is involved in serving God as His worker, we shrink from it and feel it to be totally above us

• The voice of God keeps on coming and God does not take no for an answer

himself as the rescuer of Israel. At that time he had been acting in self-will. But now God calls him to do the very thing he had wanted to do, only now he does not want to do it!

Moses has five objections:

i. He thinks he is inadequate. 'Who am I that I should go...?' ^{Ex 1}

^{Ex 1} 3:11

ii. He believes that he does not know enough. 'Suppose I go . . . and they ask me "What does his name mean?" What shall I tell them?' ^{Ex 1}.

^{Ex 1} 3:13

iii. He fears that he will be ineffective. 'What if they do not believe me or listen to me...?' ^{Ex 1}.

^{Ex 1} 4:1

iv. He thinks he lacks the appropriate gifts. 'O Yahweh I have never been good at speaking...' ^{Ex 1}.

^{Ex 1} 4:10

v. He would prefer that someone else should do the work instead. 'O Yahweh, please send someone else...' ^{Ex 1}.

^{Ex 1} 4:13

This is a strange thing. When Moses wanted to do the work God was not sending him. Now God is sending him Moses does not want to do the work. The truth is that we often want to do God's work for the wrong reasons. Moses was naturally fitted to be a rescuer of Israel. He knew all about Egypt. He had grown up in the palace. He was a strong and capable man. Surely, one might think, this is the ideal man to be God's leader. Maybe. But God does not want people who are 'naturally' the right leader. The ability is not a call.

To some extent Moses had the right heart. He was a man of compassion. He felt for the people of Israel and wanted to identify with them and do something to get them out of their plight. On the other hand when a person truly sees what is involved in a call from God it is rather terrifying. God is a holy God. He is sending people on holy business. It is a very serious thing to be a representative of God. Who is worthy of it? When we truly see what is involved in serving God as His spokesman, as His worker, the minister of His word, we shrink from it and feel it to be totally above us.

A man who has never feared to represent God is probably not truly called of God. A person who shrinks in fear at least has the right attitude. He at least knows that he is starting on something which is high and holy. He might want to run from his call. But the voice of God keeps on coming, and God does not take no for an answer.



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