

Instructing Moses, Exodus 3:1-5

Instructing Moses

- What is the main purpose of Biblical salvation?
 - So we can be forgiven of our sin debt to God and go to heaven when we die
- Asked another way, why did God save the Israelite people out of Egypt?
 - Same thing Randy, to take them to the land promised to Abraham
- Asked another way, why would God save you?

Instructing Moses

- **John 17:3 NIV**, Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
 - “That they may know the true God and Jesus Christ”
 - Biblical Greek word “know” – Knowledge that goes beyond information
 - It implies a very vivid understanding, a relationship between what is known and the knower that is never final

Instructing Moses

- Here is the good news – God desires you to know Him more deeply, more fully, more securely today than yesterday, with the promise of more fulfilling knowledge tomorrow
 - **Hosea 6:3 ESV**, “Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”
 - **Psalms 34:8 NIV**, “Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”
 - **Hebrews 11:6 NIV**, “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

Instructing Moses

- Do not believe the lies from your enemy, this world, or your past telling you, “Everyone but you”
 - **2nd Peter 3:9 NIV**, “not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

So how do we get to know this God of the Bible?

- As Christians we believe that God has not left us to wander in the dark
 - **Psalm 19:1-4 NIV**, 1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.
 - 3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. 4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.
 - Gerard Manley Hopkins, “The world is charged with the grandeur of God.”
 - **Psalm 33:6, 9 NIV**, 6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. 9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

So how do we get to know this God of the Bible?

- While the heavens declare the glory of God, they don't declare His name, that is, His personality and character
 - The existence of multiple religions makes it clear
 - Mankind has drawn many different conclusions about who God is and what He is like based upon their understanding of creation

So how do we get to know this God of the Bible?

- If you want to know what someone new to you is like, you must pay attention to what they say and what they do over time
 - This is what we have in the Bible
 - God's self-revelation in which He speaks about Himself
 - **Malachi 3:6 NIV**, "I the Lord do not change."
 - And provides a record over generations and ages about how He acts
 - **John 3:16-17 NIV**, 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

So how do we get to know this God of the Bible?

- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob knew the glory and power of God
 - They knew their God, experienced their God, grew up in their God
 - **Genesis 15:13-14 NIV**, 13 Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.

So how do we get to know this God of the Bible?

- This is where we find God's people this morning
 - Life was so easy at first in Egypt for the Hebrews
 - They passed the stories of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob down through the generations
 - They passed down the promise, but they just became stories
- The Egyptians became scared of the Hebrew multitude and subjected them to slavery
 - Why would God allow this?
 - They would never leave Egypt and return to Canaan (*their promised blessing from God*) without it

So how do we get to know this God of the Bible?

- But there was a problem – God’s people did not know their God
 - God begins revealing Himself to His people by starting with a man whose life appears to be a complete failure
 - Who finds himself running from God, hiding in a far-off land, tending some else’s herd, lost for 40 years
 - On an ordinary day God breaks into his world, failure, pain, lostness

Scripture – Exodus 3:1-5

- **Exodus 3:1 NIV**, Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.
 - What do you think was Moses' life like at this time?
 - A life that started out with so much hope, privilege, God's hand upon his life, surety of his future

Scripture – Exodus 3:1-5

- Exodus 2:2 NIV, 2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months.
 - Acts 7:20 NIV, “At that time Moses was born, and he was no ordinary child (*beautiful in God's sight*).”
- Then life came crashing down through his own pride and self-will
 - In one day he went from favored prince to hiding murderer

Scripture – Exodus 3:1-5

- **Exodus 3:2-5 NIV**, 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”
 - 4 When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” 5 “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”

The first lesson for Moses is this, “God is”

- Imagine Moses’ first impression of God as he meets God in the flames of a non-burning burning bush with failure in his eyes
 - His hopes and dreams crushed by his pride, impetuous actions
 - Moses learns God is more than a story, fairytale, concept, or idea
 - Stephen Eyre, “God real, a shining presence who speaks as we meet Him in the fabric of creation.”
 - **Hebrews 11:6 NIV**, And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

The first lesson for Moses is this, “God is”

- I also believe there was a burning in Moses’ heart that never went away
 - **Exodus 2:11-12 NIV**, 11 One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. 12 Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.
 - I can hear Moses say to himself, “God has put me here for such a time as this.”
 - Now Moses sees this yearning, burning desire wasted on him and he longed to return for a do-over but we all know that is hopeless--right

The second lesson for Moses is this, “God knows”

- God knows me
 - God did not address Moses as, “Hey Hebrew man”, “Hey failure man”, “Hey lost man”
 - **Vs. 4**, “Moses! Moses!”
 - Out of all the Hebrew people, God saw this single man, hidden on the backside of a wilderness mountain
 - **Isaiah 43:1 NIV**, But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
 - **Jeremiah 1:5 NIV**, “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.”

The second lesson for Moses is this, “God knows”

- God knows me
 - Oh My—God knows all about me, nothing of me is hidden from Him
 - **Psalm 139:1-4 NIV**, 1 You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. 2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. 4 Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.
 - He knows how I ended up on the backside of this mountain, He knows the desires of my heart
 - But He also knows the way back

The third lesson for Moses is this, “God is holy, and I am not”

- They way back for Moses runs through the holiness of God
 - Vs. 5, “Do not come any closer,” – Why?
 - Vs. 5, “for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” – How/Why?
 - This is holy ground because “I AM” is present
 - Does this mean God does not want Moses close to Him?
 - Where is Moses at?
 - How did Moses get here?
 - We must understand Moses is a sinner and separated from a holy, righteous, just God
 - Moses is not holy

The third lesson for Moses is this, “God is holy, and I am not”

- They way back Moses runs through the holiness of God
 - Holiness is a mysterious concept that is hard to nail down, define
 - Words associated with it include unmixed, unpolluted, uncorrupted, separate, unique, just, righteous, sacred, precious, and honored
 - Hear God saying to Moses, “I am unmixed, unpolluted, uncorrupted, unique, just, righteous, precious, honored”, and you are not

The third lesson for Moses is this, “God is holy, and I am not”

- They way back Moses runs through the holiness of God
 - In the Scriptures, there is one primary meaning and one secondary meaning of the term holy
 - The secondary meaning is that which refers to personal righteousness and purity
 - The primary meaning of the word is “separate”
 - You see this in the burning bush – separated from the laws of nature governing His creation
 - You see this in the temple with a massive curtain separating the Holy of Holies restricting access to the mercy seat of God

The third lesson for Moses is this, “God is holy, and I am not”

- They way back Moses runs through the holiness of God
 - This is why Jesus came, to make the righteousness of God available to us
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:21 NIV**, God made him who had no sin to be sin (*sin offering*) for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
 - As a born-again child of God, the Spirit is present in your life and where the Spirit is there is freedom, there is holiness
 - We are set apart for God

The third lesson for Moses is this, “God is holy, and I am not”

- Because we are set apart for God, we are His slaves
 - Vs. 5, “Take off your sandals”
 - In this culture it was and still is a sign of reverence, humility, and respect
 - It is a statement of trust and submission
 - It is also a statement of repentance (*stop running away*) and returning to God
 - “Moses, you have wandered these last 40 years outside of My plan for you”
 - “Moses, you have tried to be your own God and have settled for much less than My best for you”
 - “Moses drop those sandals, they no longer fit you”

The third lesson for Moses is this, “God is holy, and I am not”

- Because we are set apart for God, we are His slaves
 - **Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV**, 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Instructing Moses

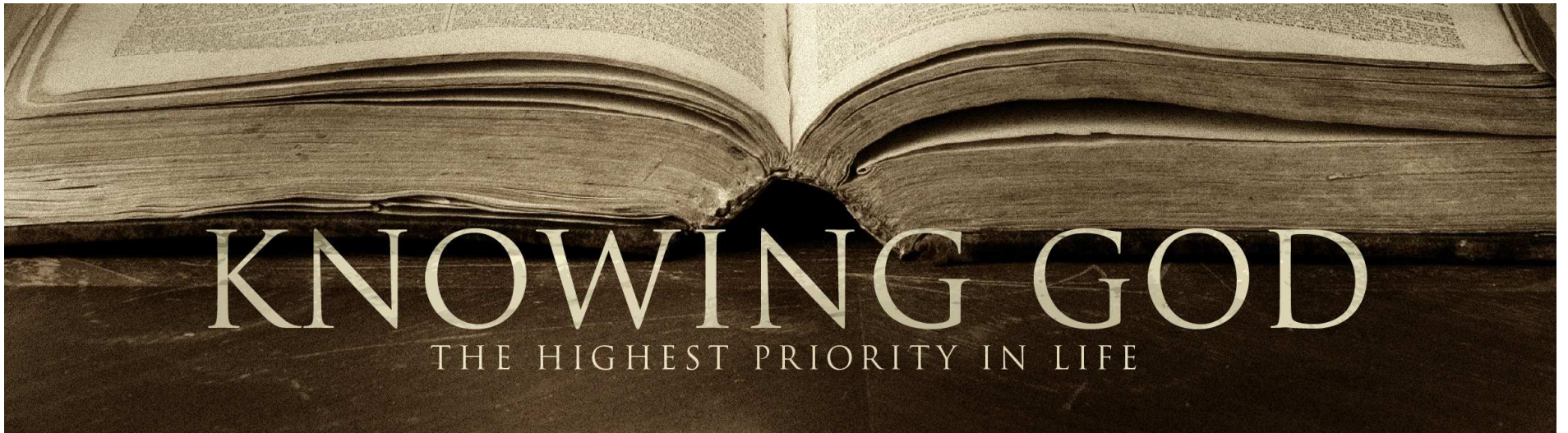
- God is a God who steps into our world, interrupts us, and calls us to Himself and His purposes
 - This is what we see in the ministry of Jesus as He walks into the fishing sites of Peter, James, John, and Andrew by the sea of Galilee
 - **Mark 1:17 NIV**, “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”
- God desires the same kind of revelation in your life today
 - He desires you to see Him as Savior through the Sin Offerings in the Old Testament that were all fulfilled by Jesus Christ on the cross
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:21 NIV**, God made him who had no sin to be *sin (sin offering)* for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Instructing Moses

- God desires the same kind of revelation in your life today
 - For what purpose?
 - **2nd Corinthians 3:18 NIV**, And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
 - To what end?
 - **Jude 1:24-25 NIV**, To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— 25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Instructing Moses

- How do I know this is true?
 - **Numbers 23:19 NIV**, God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?
 - **Hebrews 13:8 NIV**, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.



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