

The Morning Greeting

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Good morning! Yesterday we began to look at how God calls and prepares us for service. All of us must learn to serve God in His strength, with His power. It's not that we are serving God so much as He is serving Himself and His purposes through us. We are not able to do in our own strength and with our own wisdom all that God wants us to do---indeed, calls us to do. That's because His intention is for us to do it by faith, so that means stepping outside of our own native abilities. We began yesterday by considering how this precept worked in the life of a young Egyptian aristocrat named Moses; let's jump back into the story together this morning:

Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. So Moses said, "I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. The Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. Now, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them.

Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?”

Ex. 3:1-11

This is a pretty interesting passage, right? God said, “Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.” And Moses asked, “Who am I?” Wait a minute---is this the same guy who forty years earlier had killed an Egyptian, trying to solve the Hebrew slavery problem with his bare hands? After forty years of living in the backside of nowhere and herding someone else's sheep, Moses wasn't so full of himself anymore. He wasn't politically connected and powerful; he didn't even have his own sheep! God had emptied Moses of all of the self-importance that came with his life of position and privilege. What had he learned? He had learned that he wasn't ready. He had learned that he wasn't able. Someone once said that if he had only waited on God for direction in the first place, he wouldn't have had to go through that forty years in the wilderness but I don't think so. I think God was training Moses and it was a 40 Year Training Plan. It's the same for us, you know; it takes a long time to train the self-sufficiency out of us. One thing I have learned in a life of following Jesus is that God is never late but He can seem awfully slow. Sometimes we must wait years before we are ready to do what God has called us to do. When we finally come to the place where we know we aren't ready---that's when God seems to want us to get started! How about you this morning? Have you had a vision of service that was burning years ago and you finally gave up after you realized you couldn't do it? Now may be the time. Revisit it with God over the next few days and weeks, being careful to listen for what He has to say about it. God may be ready; will you be ready?