

DECIDING TO SURRENDER

EXODUS 3:1-9

Text:

Introduction:

Moses in his early life had chosen to serve God.

Hebrews 11:24-26

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; ²⁵ Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; ²⁶ Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

Trials came into his life and our story today finds him on the back side of the desert, where Moses went to work for his father-in-law. Now he would have to choose again.

Remember being surrendered to the Lord is a lifelong process.

He comes to the mountain of God, or Mount Sinai. Now, he must choose again...

1. THE REVELATION OF GOD – (VS.2-8)

A. A Revelation of Fire – vs. 2

Exodus 3:2

² And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed.

- The burning bush—fire was a symbol of deity.
- It would be a pillar of fire that would guide the children of Israel out of bondage.
- The bush was not consumed, an evidence of God’s working and protection.

Deuteronomy 4:24

²⁴ For the LORD thy God *is* a consuming fire, *even* a jealous God.

B. A Revelation of Holiness – vs. 5-6

Exodus 3:5-6

⁵ And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground. ⁶ Moreover he said, I *am* the God of thy 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 upon God.

- The place was holy

Pulling off the shoes was therefore, an emblem of laying aside the pollutions contracted by walking in the way of sin. Let those who name the Lord Jesus Christ depart from iniquity.

- The Person was holy (vs. 6a)

1 Peter 1:16

¹⁶Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

C. A Revelation of Compassion – vs. 6-8

Exodus 3:6-8

⁶Moreover he said, I *am* the God of thy 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 upon God. ⁷ And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; ⁸ And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

- God's eye had affected His heart.

Illustration:

Dwight Morrow, the father of Anne Morrow Lindbergh, once held a dinner party to which Calvin Coolidge had been invited. After Coolidge left, Morrow told the remaining guests that Coolidge would make a good

president. The others disagreed. They felt Coolidge was too quiet, that he lacked color and personality. No one would like him, they said. Anne, then age six, spoke up: "I like him," she said. Then she displayed a finger with a small bandage around it. "He was the only one at the party who asked about my sore finger." "And that's why he would make a good president," added Morrow.

- God sees the affliction of His people

Psalm 106:42-44

⁴² Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand. ⁴³ Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked *him* with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity. ⁴⁴ Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry:

Note: God's love never fails.

Illustration:

Emotional love wears off. A husband was coming out of anesthesia, after a series of tests in the hospital. His wife was sitting at his bedside, when his eyes fluttered open and he muttered, "You are beautiful." Flattered, the wife continued her vigil. Later, he woke up again and said, "You're cute!" "What happened to beautiful?" She asked. "The drugs are wearing off," the husband replied!

Note: God sees our need

- God moves to meet His people's need—verse 8

Not only do we see the Revelation of God but also:

2. THE REALIZATION OF MOSES (VS. 11-14)

Exodus 3:11-14

¹¹ And Moses said unto God, Who *am* I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? ¹² And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this *shall be* a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. ¹³ And Moses said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What *is* his name? what shall I say unto them? ¹⁴ And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

A. His Significance Was Inconsequential

Note: Before he would have trusted in self.

Romans 7:18

¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

Illustration:

Hudson Taylor was scheduled to speak at a large Presbyterian church in Melbourne, Australia. The

moderator of the service introduced the missionary in eloquent and glowing terms. He told the large congregation all that Taylor had accomplished in China, and then presented him as “our illustrious guest.” Taylor stood quietly for a moment, and then opened his message by saying, “Dear friends, I am the little servant of an illustrious Master.”

B. God’s Sufficiency Was Enough – vs. 13-15

Exodus 3:13-15

¹³ And Moses said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What *is* his name? what shall I say unto them? ¹⁴ And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. ¹⁵ And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this *is* my name for ever, and this *is* my memorial unto all generations.

Note:

The children of Israel may say, “What is His name?” — Evidence they had been stooped in the superstitious beliefs of the Egyptians.

Note:

He is the “I am that I Am God” — The eternally self-existing One

Revelation 1:8

⁸ I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Isaiah 43:10-11

¹⁰ Ye *are* my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I *am* he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. ¹¹ I, *even* I, *am* the LORD; and beside me *there is* no saviour.

Not only do we see the Revelation of God and the Relaxation of Moses but not note also:

3. The Response of Moses

A. A Response of Hesitation

Exodus 4:1-12

¹ And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. ² And the LORD said unto him, What *is* that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. ³ And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. ⁴ And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: ⁵ That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee. ⁶ And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. ⁷ And he said, Put thine hand into thy

bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his *other* flesh. ⁸ And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. ⁹ And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour *it* upon the dry *land*: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry *land*. ¹⁰ And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I *am* slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. ¹¹ And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? ¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

- He doubted his ability (vs. 1)
 - He was not eloquent (vs. 10)

Note: We must not trust in our ability.

- God provided His power

Exodus 4:2-4

² And the LORD said unto him, What *is* that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. ³ And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. ⁴ And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:

Exodus 4:6-7

⁶ And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand

into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand *was* leprous as snow.⁷ And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his *other* flesh.

Note: The Jews often required a sign (Verse 8)

- The rod turned into a serpent
- The hand was leprous and then clean

Note: God knows our shortcomings, yet He wants to use us that He might be glorified.

B. A Response of Surrender – vs. 4:29-5:1

- He delivers the message to the elders of Israel.
- He delivers God’s message to Pharaoh in Exodus 5:1—“Let my people go.”

Note:

God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life wholly yielded to Him.

Close:

Is there something in your life you have been hesitant to do because you felt inadequate?

Note:

When you have nothing left but God, then you become aware that God is enough. Have you been delaying trusting Christ?

Note:

God wanted Moses to surrender. He wanted His people to follow Him. He desires that you and I do the same.

Note:

Egypt is a picture of the world in which we live. Will you follow God's plan of redemption?