

God's Revelation to Moses – Teaching Notes

(Exodus 3:1-6, 13-15; 9/5/10)

Introduction: A key idea in our lesson is that God chose to do a great work through Moses. Prayerfully, we will be challenged to let God have His way in our lives.

Body:

Read Exodus 3:1-6

I. Unusual Situation. Moses was out taking care of his father-in-law's sheep. Moses saw a burning bush that was not burning out. He was making ready to investigate. God told Moses not to draw too close. Moses was to take off his shoes in reverence to God – the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Applications –

- **Faithful over a few things.** Notice in vss. 1-2 that it was as Moses was working for his father-in-law that he experienced a great encounter with God. It is not strange for God to call on those who are working. Think about Gideon and his wine press, the shepherds who were around baby Jesus, and the fishermen who Jesus turned into fishers of men. *Let's be faithful in what we know God want us to do, as possible preparation for greater things.* We should teach by our example the importance of being industrious and hard working. As we are faithful over a few things, God has a way of making us ruler over many.

- **Reverence and obedience.** Notice in vs. 5 the reverence towards God. The text teaches that the angel of the Lord appeared in the burning bush. Moses is to take off his shoes/sandals as a sign of reverence. Moses experience fear, but he doesn't run away. God explains that He is the self-existent one who is the God of Moses' and the children of Israel's fore fathers. The burning bush, the removal of shoes, and even God being the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob does not say enough about how great and awesome God is. We should work on not only having an understanding of God's greatness but a reverence for such. Reverence for God should be the bases for obeying Him. With reverence we are more likely to study, serve, give, love one another, and follow God sent leadership. Without reverence for God, these things often mean very little to us. *Let's work on understanding the awesomeness of God and reverence Him enough to obey His will our lives.*

- **Doing God's will.** Notice in vs. 5 that what Moses thought should have happened was contrary to what God wanted to happen. Moses wanted to approach God. God told Moses not to draw too close. There are ways that seem right to us, but the ends there of are the ways of death. *Let's work on learning and doing God's will.* For example, it may seem right to us that at a certain age, we should have nothing to do. But God teaches us to be faithful in what He is calling us to do until death. What He calls us to do may change over time, but His calling us to do something is constant. It may seem right to us that since our spouses are not being good to us then we don't have to be good spouses either. However, the God's instructions to husbands and wives are not based on what the other one does. Husbands are to be loving leaders and wives are to be submissive supporters because God said so.

Read Exodus 3:13-15

II. Significant Revelation. Moses anticipates a question been asked about who sent him. Moses asks God who he should say sent him to deliver the children of Israel. God tells Moses to tell the people that "I Am" has sent me. God is the God of their fore fathers.

Applications –

- **Being sendable.** Notice in vs. 13 that Moses was willing to do what the Lord said do. Even though the background and context shows that Moses had some apprehensions, at the end of the day he went and did what God told him to do. *Let's work on being sendable.* This means we must be willing to go and do as God instructs us. We must not allow our laziness, desire to be with our friends, or desire for comfort to stop us from serving the Lord. God can take friends, comfort, and even health a way, if He needs to, in order to get us to serve Him. God should not have to punish us to get us to obey.

- **Thinking ahead.** Notice in vs. 13 that Moses was thinking ahead. It is reasonable to wonder what should I say, especially when you are the leader. Too much confusion and poor performance in church ministry is fueled by leaders who don't think ahead. They procrastinate and try to make up stuff as they go. *Let's learn to think ahead, so we can be the best that we can be for the Lord.* This application should not be used to fuel "analysis paralysis." This is the inability to move because there is too much thinking and analysis. There must be a balance.

- **God's awesomeness.** Notice in vss. 14-15 that God is awesome. The greatest evidence that we really understand the awesomeness of God is not our words or worship. It is our obedience. *Let's live like we really understand the Lord.* This kind of understanding should lead us to love God, ourselves, and others.

Conclusion: Let's let God have His way in our lives. God has much for those who obey His will.