

EXODUS

A MIGHTY HAND AND AN OUTSTRETCHED ARM

THE GREAT I AM (Exodus 3-4)

We pick up the story of the Exodus with one of the most important chapters in all of Scripture. Moses and the burning bush.

Moses is drawn to the bush with a courageous curiosity.
As Moses gets closer, he's gripped by a fear, ready to hear clearly.

Fear has a way of heightening the senses. Adrenaline.
Drawn by curiosity, Moses was poised for a life-changing conversation with God, but there was one more missing ingredient: FEAR.

God responds to Moses's fear with words of promise and purpose.
I've heard the cries of my people. It's time to make good on my promise.

It's in this critical moment, God announces his identity for Moses: I am that I am!
God is Yahweh, YHWH.
This statement is impossible to fully comprehend, but...

Moses isn't 100% convinced, but God deals with his doubt in a remarkable way.
God works wonders with his human hands:
The snake. The leprous hand. The water turned to blood.

God knows Moses is going to struggle beyond belief that this is the God of a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. He knows Moses is going to doubt his own utility and capacity to succeed. Moses persists in this doubtful posture, so God encourages him with the help of his brother, Aaron, who is more eloquent and can speak for him.

Bound for Egypt, a strange thing happens.
Moses's sons are threatened, because they're not marked by the covenant of circumcision. Zipporah and her family weren't Jews. This was not her family's practice, but she acted swiftly to circumcise the boys and bring them into covenant relationship with God.

What's the big deal, here?
God is serious about covenant and commitment.
As He honors His covenant with His people, He expects His people to honor their covenant too.

As Moses and Aaron shared everything the LORD had said and performed the signs given to accompany this good news, they knew the Lord was concerned about them and they worshiped.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Has God ever used the natural world around you to get your attention?

As Moses approached the burning bush, he was filled with fear.

Does it seem like that kind of posture make for a good listener?

Are you a better listener at times like this?

Moses approaches the burning bush with a courageous curiosity.

Is this the way you approach the holy fire of God's word? Why or Why not?

What's keeping you from a courageous curiosity?

Are we supposed to fear God?

Open your ears to these words of life:

Luke 23:39-43

1 Peter 2:16-17

Revelation 14:6-7

Luke 12:4-5

Do you really fear God? Why/why not?

How can a holy fear ready us for right relationship with God and powerful life in Him.

Can you appreciate how serious the Great I Am is about covenant and commitment?

How can we live more like a courageously curious people with the Great I Am?

How can we live more like a people called to real relationship with Him?