

The Call of Moses

Ex. 3:1-4:17

Introduction:

Moses is one of the greatest characters in the entire Bible. He is the one whom God chose to lead the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. He is the one who spoke to God face to face (**Deut. 34:10**). In fact, the Bible tells us in this same verse that there has never been a prophet like Moses in Israel. He was truly a man of God.

In this particular setting (the calling of Moses), we read of the first known encounter between God and Moses. God has a specific task for Moses. Moses at first tries to get out of the duties that God has for him, but later agrees and does as the Lord commands. Notice three of the lessons that we can learn from this first known encounter with God. **1**) God demands respect from Moses. **2**) God gives Moses miracles to perform so that others will know that God has sent Moses. **3**) This encounter with God shows us that there will be a resurrection.

I. Notice the respect that God commands Moses to have (**3:1-6**).

- A. When Moses came into the presence of God, God demanded that Moses take his sandals off of his feet (**3:4-5**).
 - 1. It must have been a spectacular sight to see this bush burn but not be consumed (**3:2**).
 - 2. Moses decides to go and get a closer look at this bush (**3:3**).
 - 3. Before he can get to the bush, God calls to him and tells him to take off his sandals because the ground where he is standing is holy (**3:5**).
 - a. This is not the only time in the Bible that God tells someone to take off their sandals because they are in the presence of God.
 - b. **Josh. 5:13-15** - And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" {14} So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" {15} Then the Commander of the LORD'S army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.
 - 4. The reason the ground was holy is because that is where God was.
- B. God has always demanded respect.
 - 1. **Ex. 20:18-19** - Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. {19} Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."

2. **Lev. 10:1-3** - Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. {2} So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. {3} And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified.'" So Aaron held his peace.
 3. **Hab. 2:20** - But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.
- C. God deserves our respect for who He is.
1. **Ps. 33:8-9** - Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. {9} For He spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.
 2. **Ps. 89:6-7** - For who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the LORD? {7} God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him.
 3. **Ps. 111:9** - He has sent redemption to His people; he has commanded His covenant forever: holy and awesome is His name.
 4. **Heb. 12:28-29** - Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. {29} For our God is a consuming fire.
- D. Do we have the same kind of respect for God when we come into His house?
1. **Ps. 122:1** - I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."
 2. We must always respect God when we are in His presence.

II. Notice the signs that God gives to Moses (3:7-4:17).

- A. God tells Moses His purpose for calling him (3:7-10).
- B. Moses begins to make excuses as to why he should not go (3:11-4:17).
 1. "Who am I?" (3:11-12)
 2. Who can I tell them that sent me? (3:13-22)
 3. What if they do not believe me? (4:1-9)
 - a. It is at this point that God gives Moses three miracles to perform to prove that he is from God.
 - b. Rod to snake (4:2-5)
 - c. Hand is leprous (4:6-8)
 - d. Water to blood (4:9)
 4. My speech is not eloquent (4:10-17).
- C. However, God did not accept these excuses from Moses.
- D. Notice again the reasons that God gave Moses these signs (4:2-9).
 1. The main purpose of the signs from God was to prove that God is with Moses.
 2. This is the same reason that Jesus performed miracles.

- a. **Jn. 20:30-31** - And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; {31} but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.
 - b. **Acts 2:22** - Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know.
- E. It is interesting to note that Moses and Pharaoh had the same signs given to them, and only one of them believed in God.
- 1. We, today, have the same word of God given to us as they did in the first century.
 - 2. It is up to us to believe in that word and obtain the salvation that is found therein.

III. Also in this passage, we learn of the resurrection of the dead.

- A. Four times in this passage, God refers to Himself as “the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob” (**3:6, 15, 16, 4:5**).
- B. In fact, Jesus used this very same passage to show the Sadducees that there is a resurrection from the dead.
 - 1. **Lk. 20:27-38**
 - 2. God is the God of the living, not the dead (**Lk. 20:38**).

Conclusion:

Just as Moses was rejected by the people of Israel, even so Jesus was rejected by those whom He came to save.

Acts 7:35 - "This Moses whom they rejected, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?' is the one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the bush."