

God, Our Great Deliverer

Exodus 3

"Standing on Holy Ground"— January 28, 2024



Introduction

Exodus is the defining book for God's people, the Israelites. God delivered His people out of slavery to dwell with and worship Him. He did this by grace alone. Exodus is a beautiful picture of the gospel.

It is not an exaggeration to say that Exodus 3 is one of the most important chapters in the Bible. God reveals Himself to Moses. It is the only place that He reveals His name which reveals His character. There is nothing more important than to know what God is like. What comes to your mind when you think about God? Is He a hard task master? Is He a genie in a bottle granting all of your requests? Is He a loving Father? Is your God eerily like how **you** think and feel? The most revealing thing about the church is her idea of God.

It is vital that our view of God be aligned to what He is actually like. We are created in His image, yet since the Fall, we have been creating Him in our image. Where do we get the idea that we can shape God into something "acceptable?" We need to rediscover the majesty of God. We need a fresh encounter with the holy God.

Sermon Outline

1. Learn to trust the wise and strange timing of God.
2. Be in awe of the incredible holiness of God.
3. Find your identity in the self-sufficiency of God.
4. Delight in the wonderful nearness of God.

Read & Discuss

1. Learn to trust the wise and strange timing of God.

After all these years, Moses was **still** keeping the flock of his father-in-law. It seemed like a dead end. After being rescued from the Nile and raised in the lap of luxury, it seemed like Moses had it made. He saw the oppression of his people and killed an Egyptian. He fled to the desert, losing everything, and thinking this was it.

Have you ever felt like life dealt you a curveball? Have you ever wondered if you were at a dead end? It was here when God revealed Himself to Moses. This shows us that God is not in a hurry. Moses had to learn how to lead people by leading sheep. Are you going through a season of waiting? God is shaping you into the person He wants you to be. Be faithful in the ordinary routines of life. ([Isaiah 55:8-9](#))

2. Be in awe of the incredible holiness of God.

Moses arrived at Mt. Horeb, the mountain of God, and the fire caught his attention. Why does God choose to reveal Himself in fire? Fire draws us in and keeps us at a distance. Fire is inviting, but it is also hot. It will keep you warm, but if you get too close, you will get burned.

This is the first time in the Bible that the word "holy" is connected with God. What does this mean? It means He is separate, distinct, and "other than." This is not a passive attribute. It draws in all that is holy and destroys all that is not.

God is not our buddy or genie in a bottle. He is a consuming fire. If we met God now, we would cover our faces. God is transcendent - beyond our comprehension. Do you worship a God who is greater than you and everything we can imagine or think of?

3. Find your identity in the self-sufficiency of God.

In the burning bush, God reveals His covenant history with Moses' fathers. He is the same God who entered into a covenant relationship with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God told Moses that He saw the suffering of the people and would deliver them. God is imminent. He draws near. He is close.

God is also a sending God. He was going to send Moses to fulfill His plan to rescue His people, but Moses was reluctant. He asks God, "who am I?" He struggled with identity issues his whole life. Have you struggled like Moses? Do you ever wonder who you are, really? What Moses was really saying is, "I'm not up to the task - I'm totally insufficient." Have you ever felt that way?

God's response to Moses was, "I will be with you." God didn't point out Moses' good qualities. God tells Moses that this isn't about him - Moses wasn't the hero. God is!! With God by your side, you have more than you ever need. Do you believe that? Do you believe that God takes our weaknesses and shows His power?

Our society tells us that we must **be** somebody, but the Bible says we are a nobody through whom God will work. God will make you who He needs you to be. We usually identify ourselves by things outside of ourselves. God is not defined that way. He is defined by existence Himself. "I Am Who I Am."

We have a limited ability to understand the greatness of God. He is too big for us to wrap our minds around. God is majestic and mysterious. You will never figure Him out. This mystery can either fuel your doubt or bolster your wonder.

What does this mean for you? It means that the pressure is off. God is the sovereign over the nations. This is both humbling and liberating. Everything you have worked for in life is a gift from God! You don't have to worry about anything. God was there for you in the beginning, and He will be there for you in the end. Take some time this week to recall and thank God for all that He has done in your life, for His faithfulness, guidance, and grace.

4. Delight in the wonderful nearness of God.

This text offers us a unique glimpse of God's holiness, but it also gives us a glimpse of His imminence. He saw, heard, knew, and felt all that the Israelites were going through as slaves in Egypt. He was coming down through Moses to do something about it.

Moses was a picture of a future Deliverer – Jesus who sees, knows, and feels our need to be delivered from the slavery of sin. He revealed Himself as the Deliverer. ([John 8:31-59](#)) He equated Himself with God - the "I AM." The people knew exactly what He was saying. ([John 8:58](#)) There was no question. He became one of us. In Jesus, we have a Savior.

As a sinner, Moses couldn't draw near to the fire because it would have consumed him. We can draw near to God through faith in Jesus who took on our sin on the cross. He was raised from the dead to give us new life. He takes our sin and gives us the gift of holiness. His Spirit is within us. Are you experiencing the presence of God today? You can know a lot of things about God, but have you encountered Him in a life-changing way? Do you believe that God is working in your life today? Does your heart need to be awed by His transcendence and holiness? Today, you can turn to God. In Christ you are loved, enough, and sent out on mission. When Jesus is the center of your life, there is no limit to what He can do through you.

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at fbcum.org

Next week's sermon text: we turn to Revelation 2:8-11 "A Letter from Jesus on True Riches"
