



HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

May 31, 2020

Main Point: God sees and responds to the oppressed and suffering.

1. Listen to this Spotify playlist

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2PFq9EG6qySS7pasjKKAxB?_php=1

2. Read this passage two times - Exodus 3:2-15; 4:1-5

3. Background

As we begin the story of the exodus, the children of Israel lived under a new Pharaoh's rule—one who did not know of Joseph. The Israelites had multiplied so greatly that this Pharaoh oppressed them. Fearing the Israelites would be too powerful, Pharaoh placed the Israelites into bondage. When their numbers continued to grow, he ordered all male babies to be killed.

Cue Moses. Moses' mother saved her son's life by placing him in a basket along the banks of the Nile River where Pharaoh's daughter found him and took him in. Moses was spared from death and grew up in Pharaoh's household. But, years later Moses struck down an Egyptian and fled to Midian.

At the end of Exodus 2, the people cried out to God in their distress and God heard them. He remembered His covenant with Abraham and prepared to act. It was time to pay Moses a visit.

4. Process

3:2-10. The people of God were complaining. They were hurting. They were crying out for help. Egypt had once been their land of deliverance. They followed God's guidance there and were preserved from the famine. But they needed deliverance from that land of deliverance. They were in pain and desperate for relief. God heard them when they cried out to Him. God, the creator of everything, listened to the people.

What we see in this text is a God who not only sees, hears, and knows, but also a God who is working a plan that is for His glory and the good of His people. We see that God is compassionate. God sees, cares, and acts when His children are in need. We also learn that God is attentive by hearing and responding to the prayers of His children.

Finally, we see once again that God is faithful; He always does what He says He will do.

When we read this passage, it's easy for the burning bush to capture our attention. Fire is often used in Scripture to mark the presence of the Lord. We see it here, we see it later in Exodus with the pillar of fire guiding the children of Israel, and we see it at Pentecost in the Book of Acts. The presence of the Lord is what made the ground Moses stood on holy. We can't miss this. God heard His people and responded to their cries according to His character. He drew near. God came down to His people to rescue them, as He would in an even greater way in the small town of Bethlehem centuries later.



3:14. We live in an age when people believe it's our right to define God. We want to make God in our image—make Him who we want Him to be. Some of us want a God who is wholly transcendent—a God who is distant and leaves us alone. A God we don't have to worry about looking over our shoulders. Others want a God who is wholly immanent. A God who is with us and like us. A God who is more of our peer.

But our place is not to define God; He defines who He is. Here we see that God is both transcendent and immanent at once. God is holy, and God is near. This is the God the children of Israel needed, and this is the God we need as well.

4:10-17. Moses had taken a step of faith and God had revealed His power, but Moses still wasn't convinced. He had more questions, more concerns, more excuses. We see this in Exodus 4:10-17, where Moses asked God to send someone else and then the text says the Lord's anger burned against Moses. The sad irony of Moses' final request is that he had just witnessed what God can do. He had seen a bush burning without being consumed. He had grabbed a snake by its tail to see it become a staff once more. He had placed his hand in his cloak, removed a diseased hand, only to place it back in and remove a clean hand. Yet, Moses could not shake his own inadequacies. To him, his problems and shortcomings made God's miracles seem rather small.

This is why God's anger burned against Moses. God had given him enough. God had showed His power. God had promised His presence. God had foretold His success to deliver His people (Ex. 3:19-22). But Moses' initial faith failed to produce obedience because it was sidetracked by his inability to remove the focus from himself and fix his gaze upon God.

All of us can relate with Moses. We all struggle to trust God and step out in faith and obedience. We all have selective obedience—choosing to obey God willingly and happily when His commands are easy, pleasant, and make sense, but struggling to obey when what He calls us to is terrifying.

5. Think About It

- Do you ever have trouble believing God hears you when you pray? Why?
- What might we learn about God's character from His speech to Moses?
- How does it comfort you to know God sees every sin committed against you? How does it challenge you to know God sees every sin you have committed against someone else?
- What is the difference between being "terrified" by God and being "awed" by God?
- What fears prevent you from speaking on God's behalf? How can faith in God's promised redemption help you overcome these excuses?

Join Lauren & Nathan in a Zoom Call!

Sunday, May 31 at 7:00 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/4144653655?pwd=SkYyNVVVKaS9OdGQxSTJaeUFpSU5yUT09>

Meeting ID: 414 465 3655

Password: 853104



We are here for you!

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