



EXODUS SERIES: FREEDOM TO LIVE

#3: THE ENCOUNTER

July 22, 2018
Pastor Keith Jenkins

"Moses spent 40 years thinking he was somebody, 40 years learning he was a nobody, and 40 years discovering what God can do with a nobody" –D.L. Moody

BIBLICAL TEXT

*"The calling of God will always take us outside of our comfort zone,"
–Pastor Keith*

"One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?"

The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known."

When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian..." (Exodus 2:11-15)

"Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God."

"The Lord said, "I have indeed SEEN the misery of my people in Egypt. I have HEARD them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I KNOW about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them."

"So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." ... Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh....?"

"...I will certainly be WITH YOU." (Exodus 3:1-12)

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In Exodus chapter 2, we see Moses try to do the right thing (free the Israelites) the wrong way (by killing an Egyptian slave driver). This action leads Moses to flee Egypt and live in the desert of Midian for 40 years. While there, God catches his eye with an amazing sight (chapter 3). Moses moves towards this thing and in the process steps into an encounter with the Most Holy God. As part of this encounter, God calls Moses to a holy mission, the very mission he tried to accomplish on his own as a younger man. Moses knows he is ill equipped for this mission. However, because of Moses' identity in God, he is able to accomplish the thing God has called him to, all the while deepening his relationship with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What is the weirdest thing you have ever seen?
2. Have you ever done the right thing the wrong way or at the wrong time?
What happened?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Why might Moses have been hesitant to go back to Egypt?
What factors from his past might have added to his fear?
2. How does God draw Moses towards him in this passage? How does Moses pursue God?
3. What does the text tell us about God's knowledge of the Israelites' situation?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What sorts of fears and failures have you seen keep people from being able to move forward (at work, in relationships, in their faith walk, etc)?
2. We may not all see a burning bush, but how have you seen God draw people towards himself in your life and in the lives of those around you? How have you seen people pursue God?
3. What situations are happening today that are similar to the suffering of the Israelites?
How do you think God views those situations? How do you think God wants you to view those situations?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Is there anything in your life that you have fear/anxiety about because of your past?
Can you see a way that God could use or has used your past for his glory?
2. How have you experienced God drawing you to himself in your life?
How have you/do you pursue God?
3. In the midst of a desire for compassion and/or justice, how can you know that you're doing the right thing the right way in God's time? How has God showed you this in the past?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What's one thing that you think God might be calling you to do despite your fear and/or your past?
2. What's one thing you could do this week to be more intentional in your pursuit of God?
3. What's one step that you (or your group) could take to make a difference in the life of someone who is suffering?