

# BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Burning Bush

October 9, 2022



*with preaching*

## Exodus 2:23-3:12

After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery, and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great

sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' He said, 'I

**South Elkhorn Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

4343 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington KY 40513

will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

### **REFLECT & DISCUSS**

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. Often times the "burning bush" is described as a moment where Moses meets God, and Christians explain that they have had a "burning bush moment" when they had a religious experience the changed them. Have you ever had a "burning bush moment," where it felt like you encountered God? What did God reveal to you? How did that moment change your life?
3. How is Israel described in Exodus 2:23, 3:7, and 3:9. What are some modern examples of these conditions? Who are some people that currently face these kinds of conditions in our own country, state, and city?
4. In Exodus 2:24–25, 3:4, and 3:7–9 God does multiple actions. Together as a group identify those actions. What do those actions say about God's character? And, what do those actions tell us about how God interacts with humanity?
5. In Exodus 3:2–3 Moses "looks" at the burning bush just like God "looked upon" Israel in captivity. Then Exodus 3:8 explains that God will "bring them [Israel] up out of that land" and then God commands Moses "to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." Why do you think it is significant that both Moses and God share the same actions in this passage? What does this say about God's relationship with Moses? And what does this say about God's relationship to humanity?
6. How does the Exodus "burning bush moment" change the life of Moses? How does this burning bush moment change the life of the Israelites? How does this passage change the way you live your life?

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