

Stop Trying To Fix It Yourself - *Exodus 3*

What do you worry about?

- Family?
- Finances?
- Illness?
- Job situation?
- Relationship issues?

What are you doing about it?

- Are you trying to convince family to change?
- Are you working harder to become financially secure?
- Are you looking to different treatments for a medical breakthrough?
- Are you thinking about quitting your job?

If Moses were standing here today, what kind of advise would he give?

Probably: "Stop trying to fix it yourself!"

Perhaps the example of Moses will help you to stop trying to fix things yourself but instead find out what God wants you to do.

What has happened so far:

The children of Israel are in Egypt, but have become slaves of the Egyptians and are forced into hard labour

Moses is born at this time and three things have happened to him that are significant:

1. He was saved from death and became the son of Pharaoh
2. He was educated by the Egyptians as a nobleman
3. He had to flee Egypt after slaying an Egyptian and ended up living in the wilderness

Let's see what happens in Chapter 3 (read the entire chapter)

Exo 3:1 - *Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.*

Moses was at this time 80 years old (Acts 7:30)

- He was secure and settled
- He was married

Exo 3:2 - *And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.*

Why a burning bush?

- Ps 104:4 – Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.
- Deuteronomy 33:16 – "...the favour of Him who dwelt in the bush."
- Hebrews 12:29 – "For our God is a consuming fire."

- Revelation 1:14-16
- Matthew 17:2 – “His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.”
- Fire is a historic symbol of deity, this was a powerful manifestation of God’s presence.

Moses responded:

Exo 3:3 - *Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."*

God spoke:

- God knew him by name – “...Moses...”

Exo 3:4 - *So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."*

- God’s presence made the ground holy – Moses could not approach God without being cleansed and neither can we.

Exo 3:5 - *Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."*

- God tells him who He is:

Exo 3:6 - *Moreover He said, "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 upon God.*

- God tells him what He had seen, what He has heard, and what He knows:

Exo 3:7 - *And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.*

- God tells him what He is going to do:

Exo 3:8 - *So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.*

- God tells him that He is sending him:

Exo 3:9 - *Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.*

Exo 3:10 - *Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."*

Moses responds:

Exo 3:11 - *But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"*

God answers:

Exo 3:12 - *So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."*

Moses replies:

Exo 3:13 - *Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?"*

God speaks again:

- God tells Moses to tell them who He is":

Exo 3:14 - *And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "*

- God tells Moses what to say to the children of Israel:

Exo 3:15 - *Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.'*

Exo 3:16 - *Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, "I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt;*

Exo 3:17 - *and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.' "*

- God tells Moses what to say to the king of Egypt:

Exo 3:18 - *Then they will heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, 'The LORD God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.'*

- God tells Moses how the king will respond:

Exo 3:19 - *But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand.*

God tells Moses what He is going to do:

Exo 3:20 - *So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.*

Exo 3:21 - *And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed.*

Exo 3:22 - *But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."*

What did Moses begin to learn?

He spent the first 40 years of his life learning that he was something.

He spent the second 40 years of his life learning that he was nothing.

He now will spend the final 40 years of his life learning what God can do with nothing!

- So, what are you worried about?
- What are you doing about it?
- If Moses were standing here today, what advise would he be giving us?
- Stop trying to fix it yourself! Just follow His directions and He will do what you cannot do.
- It is time to stop trying to fix things yourself!