

The Sandals of Your Heart
Exodus 3: 1-12

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1 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 desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

2 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.

3 So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight _ why the bush does not burn up."

4 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."

5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "**Take off your sandals**, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

6 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.

7 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 am concerned about their suffering.

8 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.

9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.

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

11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

12 And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

Background:

Let's take a look at our friend Moses. He is so much like us it's scary.

Makes sense why God would use him to teach us.

He spent the first 40 years in Pharaoh's court until he killed an Egyptian man then

flees to the desert of Midian for another 40 years. It is here where our story unfolds.

Why is it whenever we do something wrong we run away?

Why is it we think that no one will ever find out?

Why is it whenever our wives call us they have say our name 2 times?

Even God had to call Moses twice - He said - Moses! Moses!

Seems an elderly man had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the man to hear 100%.

The elderly man went back to the doctor for a test a month later. The doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased you can hear again."

To which the man said, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

Seems like an ordinary day in the life of an ordinary Shepherd - WRONG!
God has been preparing Moses, watching Moses and now pays a visit to Moses.

It begins @ Mt. Horeb - we are told that in this area Moses drove the sheep from Jethro's home as far as Horeb, so that he passed through a desert with the flock before he reached the pasture land of Horeb. This is the most elevated ground of the peninsula, where you find the most fertile valleys, in which even fruit-trees grow. Water abounds in this district; consequently it is the resort of all the Bedouins when the lower countries are dried up.

Nice hang out Moses, sorry but God hangs out here too!

In these 12 verses of Scripture God wants us to see Him, to understand and learn from Him and to know that when we do, He'll be there. God's desire for us is to:

- seek Him
- to love Him
- to experience His presence
- to trust Him
- to worship Him

Do you want to see God?

Let's take a look at the scriptures in verse 2 - 6

V.2 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.

V.3 So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight _ why the bush does not burn up."

V.4 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."

V.5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "**Take off your sandals**, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

V.6 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.

Have You Surrendered your Sandals to see God?

Moses had three options and so do you:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. You can walk away and ignore Him - | PRIDE |
| 2. You can stand before Him, yet hide your face- | UNCONFESSED SIN |
| 3. You can remove your sandals and see God- | HUMILITY |

POINT 1

Moses could have looked and thought " that's nice, a burning bush, I am much too busy" and walked away. But he didn't. You too can walk away and ignore Him and claim you are much too busy. LET ME ASK YOU....

Do You Want To See God?

Moses saw a fire, but no human agent to kindle it; he heard a voice, but no human lips from which it came; he saw no living Being, but One was in the bush, in the heat of the flames, who knew him, and addressed him by name.

Who could this be but a Divine Being?

READ VERSE 3 WITH ME

V.3 So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight _ why the bush does not burn up."

POINT 2

When God saw Moses turn to him, it was at that moment God called him and told him not to come any closer, to remove his sandals for it was holy ground. God then told Moses who he was. What did Moses do? He hid his face. You see Moses was not afraid of the burning bush until he realized who was in it!

Before I met the Lord I had no fear of Him. When I was a single parent and raising my son Jon it wasn't easy. I was only 20 and still sowing my oats. The only freedom I had was on the weekend when I could drop him off at my Mom's. Back then I was a big party animal and liked to have a good time. I drank, did drugs and never concerned myself with the consequences of my actions "what would happen if

I died" What would happen to Jon? Who would take care of him? He would have no parent! How many of us know young people who have 'over-dosed' or drank too much and died? Did I learn - NO... but you know what?

The Lord saved me from these consequences, He was there watching over me & my son. He was waiting for the day I would seek Him and come and stand before Him. It happened years later when I met Paige and we began reading the bible together and we came to Exodus 33: 18 - 23

V.18 Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

V.19 And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

V.20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

V.21 Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock.

V.22 When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

V.23 Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

Have You Surrendered Your Sandals to see God?

In biblical times the sandal was of great significance. The sandal might have been used to seal a legal contract or to designate ownership or lordship of property. The sandal was removed from one's feet in the presence of a superior, or at the doorway of a tent. The Egyptian priests observed it in their temples, and it is observed in all Eastern countries where the people take off their shoes or sandals, as we do our hats. But the Eastern idea is not precisely the same as the Western. With us, the removal of the hat is an expression of reverence for the place we enter, or rather of Him who is worshipped there. **With them the removal of the shoes is a confession of personal defilement and conscious unworthiness to stand in the presence of unspotted holiness.** □

POINT 3

Moses knew this was it. He was standing before Almighty God and in humility, removed his sandals, and by doing so he transferred the ownership of himself and sealed a contract with the Lord. Did he commit a crime? Yes, Did he run away from his wrong? Yes, Did God ask Moses about this event? NO... What happened? HE EXPERIENCED THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND SPOKE WITH GOD!

Have You Surrendered Your Sandals to see God?

When Paige & I read those passages about God's glory - I said "I gotta check this

Jesus thing out." When we surrendered our life, it was right then when Jesus said "You believe in God believe also in me". You know what, He has been with us ever since!

Are there habits, attitudes, or mannerisms in my life that I have to remove before I experience more of God? Yes! I am I willing - not always. Does God know about them? Remember what David wrote in Psalm 139: 7-8

V.7 Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
V.8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

Is God patient - Oh yes!

What about you?

Do you want see God?

By Moses removing his sandals, God knew Moses was now ready to experience His presence.

Lets look at verses 7 -10

V.7 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 am **concerned** about their suffering.

V.8 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.

V.9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.

V.10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

In these verses God shows us His character. When He says "I am concerned" this implies personal feeling, tenderness and compassion. Notice the words used...

Seen / Heard / Concerned

God sees our situations

God hears our cries

God is concerned with our lives

Don't walk away or ignore Him

Don't fear or hide your face from Him

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO? Remove your sandals

You see the same characteristic in Jesus - when he fed the 5 thousand, it says He look at the crowds and had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a Shepherd, or when he was going to heal Jarius' daughter and amidst the crowd of followers a women who was bleeding for 12 years pushed her way through the crowds just to touch his garment to be healed. Jesus stops and awaits the women to come - she did in humility and what does Jesus say to her? "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease." WOW!

Our heavenly Father observes, hears and knows every detail of our lives.

We are engraved on the palm of His hand!

Every hair of our head is numbered!

He loves us so much that He came to be one of us!

WHY? - LOOK @ V. 8

V.8 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.

God came to deliver them, to let them know His presence will be with them, to bring them out of their oppression and bring them into a land that God Himself has picked out! If God has done that for them won't He do it for you?

Have You Removed Your Sandals to see God?

Yet as in verse 11 - we like to have a pity party - look at Moses reply! He is standing in the very presence of God. After God had just told him that He will send him listen to Mr. Pity Party "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?" God tells him again in verse 12 - "I WILL BE WITH YOU!"

Listen, Jesus comes in the same way! To deliver us from whatever has you bound to your sandals!

He purchased a mansion with His blood for you!

He has promised eternal life for you!

He has paid your sin debt in full at the cross for you!

Do you want to see God ? - Then remove your sandals!

Yet as in verse 11 - Isn't this a picture of you and me? Especially when He is trying

to get our attention! Sometimes we all like to have a pity party - look at the reply of Moses! He is standing in the very presence of the Almighty, God had just told him that He will send him, listen to Mr. Pity Party "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?"

God tells him again in verse 12 - "I WILL BE WITH YOU!"

I am a giving God. I am neither cruel nor vindictive, as is common with man. Do not think of Me as a human being with human failings. You can trust Me because I am not limited by your feeling, your ideas, your thoughts. I am bigger than these. I am bigger than any person's interpretation of me.

I always prevail. People may lose, nations may lose, even churches may lose, but I never lose. I will not lose you.

Hold fast to me as I hold fast to you. Trust me. Understand that even when you find it difficult to trust, I am with you. Be as a little child, and trust.

(From *His Thoughts Toward Me* by Marie Chapiro)

Have You Removed Your Sandals to see God?

Then come to His mountain and worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God"