



## Exodus 3:1-14 New International Version

3 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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

<sup>4</sup>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.”

<sup>5</sup>“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” <sup>6</sup>Then he said, “I am the God of your father,<sup>[a]</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup>So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

<sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

<sup>12</sup>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.”

<sup>13</sup>Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

<sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.<sup>[c]</sup> This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”



# Sermon Notes

## Life in the Desert

### A Study on the Life of Moses

**Desert** – a season where life is difficult and God seems distant

### Deserts can **DEFINE** you

“Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, saying, ‘I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.’” Ex 2:22

### Deserts can be **SELF-INDUCED**

Most problems in our lives stem from our irrational attempts to deny that bad choices produce bad consequences.

### Deserts can **REFINE** You

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of Death, I will fear no evil for you are with me.” Ps 23:4

“Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” CS Lewis

### Moses’ lessons from the Desert

1. Look for signs of God’s **PRESENCE** (v4)
2. Listen for God’s **ASSURANCE** (v6)
3. Learn to trust God’s **PLAN** (v8)

# LIVING WORD

## *Making an Invitation*

“So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.” John 4:40-42

This wasn't your average water cooler conversation (or whatever the central place for news is at your work/school). Stunned, she merely told the other Samaritans of her encounter with Jesus and shared her questions with them.

The woman at the well shared how Jesus shared water with her despite her outcast status and told her of a wellspring of mercy he would give to all. He knew her history yet offered her life eternal. She may not have understood what he meant, but that good news just flowed out of her. “Come and see.” When the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay. Hearing his word for themselves, they knew that he was the Savior of the world.

Impressive evangelism! How could we share that good news, not with any coercive goal of conversion or perfected theology but just as our stories of encounters with God's wellspring of love?

What experience have you had with God?

What made it so memorable, powerful and transformational?

How did it help you become the person you are today?

How did it challenge you to surrender your limited point of view?

How has that encounter continued to shape and guide your future?

**Prayer:** Forgive, O Lord, what I have been, sanctify what I am, and order what I shall be.

We are blessed to be both guest and host in the feast of God's grace.

Go now to share your bread at an open table.

“God takes everyone he loves through a desert. It is his cure for our wandering hearts, restlessly searching for a new Eden...The best gift of the desert is God's presence... The protective love of the Shepherd gives me courage to face the interior journey.” — Paul E. Miller, *A Praying Life*

*Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Colossians 3:16*

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Phil 4:13

You may recognize [Peanut](#), the small waisted [turtle](#) that obviously didn't get her slender figure from exercising. Photos of this poor turtle have been making the rounds across the internet over the last couple weeks, but what's the story behind her travail? Apparently she was trapped in a six-pack ring at a young age, couldn't get out of it, and her body continued to grow around it.

Read more: [Peanut: The Story Behind a Poor Turtle Deformed by a Six-Pack Ring | Inhabitat - Sustainable Design Innovation, Eco Architecture, Green Building](#)

<sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days. Hebrews 11:30