

HEROES OF FAITH - MOSES
"Moses - He Met the Lord in a Bush"
Exodus 3.1-12

INTRODUCTION ... "Take off your shoes ... this is holy ground!"
Surprised? ... yes - but no more than Moses that day on Mt.
Sinai, when he met the Lord in a burning bush ... today's HERO OF
FAITH.

I. "Good morning! I am MOSES ..."

"That was a strange day: first, the bush that was burning but not destroyed in the fire - it made me curious to see what was happening ... then, the voice - but whose voice? - I saw no one ... the voice spoke my name - 'Moses!' ... all I could do was answer - 'Yes! Here am I!' ... I knew it must be God speaking, but talking to me, why? That's when He told me to take off my shoes, because that was holy ground - holy, because God Himself was there - the same God that my ancestors (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob - you met them a few weeks ago) worshiped and trusted ... but why was He speaking to me?

"He talked about the suffering of His people Israel - slaves in Egypt, suffering much ... I knew that because I had lived in Egypt ... I grew up there, but not as a slave - no-matter I am a Hebrew ... two-weeks-ago you heard how my Hebrew mother hid me in a small boat on the river, and an Egyptian princess found me - so that I grew up in the Egyptian palace - an easy life! When I learned that I was a Hebrew, I tried to help my people; but I had to flee to the desert, because the king tried to kill me ... so here I am. But why is God now speaking to me about His people's suffering? Why?

"God said to me, 'I am sending you to the king of Egypt, so that you can lead Me people out of his country' ... SHOCK! ... me? - go back to Egypt? - to the king himself? - to lead Israel out? ... I easily thought of a million reasons why I couldn't do that - but every one He cancelled-out and said, 'I will go with you' ... what more could I say? So, trusting in that promise, I went back to Egypt and told the king, 'The Lord God says, `Let My people go!'"

II. In faith we answer God's call to serve Him.

Has God met you and called you to serve Him? ... yes, no-matter not by a voice/signs from a burning bush! Instead, God met you in

some water - Baptism - there He called you to become His sons/daughters, and He made you His servants another, to serve one another, to show kindness/love to people who are sick or lonely or afraid or burdened with great problems, to announce the message from our God to people (many of them just as stubborn as the Egyptian king): "Let My people go" - free from the slavery of sin/death, free from the bonds of drugs/alcohol/evil-living, free from the chains to Satan and his kingdom.

Like Moses we often begin listing reasons why not: "I am nobody ... I don't know the Bible very well ... I can't talk too good ... I don't know what to say ... I am a busy person - no time ... I don't know how." Maybe you said one/more of those reasons yourself? But the Lord our God answers, "Away with your reasons! I will go with you!" ... where else have you heard something like that? - Jesus - the same God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses - said to His disciples "I will be with you always" just after He told them to go and make disciples of all nations ... the same God and Lord, Jesus Christ, says that to us also.

The Bible (Col 1.21-28) shows God's great secret: "Christ is in you" ... with love/mercy He comes to us, even though we are people filled with excuses why we can't serve God or other people as He wants ... He serves us - He washes us clean from all our sin, yes, including all those excuses/failures to serve Him - He makes His home in our hearts ... for what? - so that we can now serve Him and serve our neighbor. 'Christ is in you' - really better than 'Christ is with you'!

Faith - that gift from God's Spirit - sees that great work/challenge before us He gives to us when Christ lives in us ... faith sees that all our reasons for not believe, reasons for not obeying, those are only temptations from Satan trying to stop us from living as Christ's men/women in this world ... faith holds-on to God's promise, 'I will go with you' ... faith leads us - just as it led Moses - to serve the Lord and do His commands.

CONCLUSION ... I ask you: when God called Moses to go to Egypt, Moses as how old? - about 80 years! Christ's men/women never become TOO OLD to serve Him!