

Moses' Burning Bush

“Ordinary Object, Extraordinary Meanings”



“For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.” Proverbs 3:12-13

The story of Moses and the burning bush has always held quite a bit of controversy. How could a bush be on fire, and not be consumed? Every time we try to explain things with our earthly knowledge, we tend to limit the power of God. J. B. Phillips explains in his book *YOUR GOD IS TOO SMALL* that we try to limit God's power according to our knowledge. One chapter is entitled “God in a Box.” We are to have the faith of a child, but that isn't easy because we know too much or we think we do. We have wonderful life experiences to enjoy, and we tend to think that we know everything.

Moses tried arguing with God. God saw him checking out the burning bush and wondering how it could be on fire and not be destroyed. When God saw this he told Moses to stand back that the ground was holy. How could the ground be holy? We do know that fire can purify as well as destroy. In this case I believed it purified the ground with the burning bush. It was set aside so that God could set Moses on a special mission. The life of Moses wasn't perfect, but the Lord loved him as He does us, so He sometimes has to discipline us. Sometimes we feel we can't do something, but God will provide for us just as He did for Moses. An old poem by Edgar Guest, “It Couldn't Be Done” is often used as a graduation poem, but it has a meaning for all of us. It is given at the end of this devotional. God did not allow Moses to quit. Moses had many excuses but God promised him that He would be with him and Moses went on to do many wonderful things.

The people of Egypt were being mistreated and God was going to commission Moses to lead them into a promised land – “unto a land flowing with milk and honey.” Exodus 3:8 God promised Moses that he would lead him and he would conquer all the other tribes. Moses doubted. He tried to tell God that he wasn't a good speaker. God told him that his brother Aaron would help him. He would tell Aaron what to say and Aaron would speak. But Moses wanted more proof. He would send Moses to talk with Pharaoh. But Moses said “Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?” Exodus 3:11 I can just hear Moses saying “Why me, Lord?” “Isn't there someone else that can do this better than I can?” Don't we sometimes ask “Can't someone else do this. I don't have time.” But we are told if we want a job done, we should give it to a busy person. Moses was that person. You may be

the person today. Many times we don't want to be the one picked for a particular task. It is much easier to let someone else do it. In fact, we may not be able to argue with God and have Him appear in a burning bush as He did with Moses, but we can do it in our own heart and mind. We are very good at putting off and making excuses so we don't have to do certain things.

God wasn't finished yet. He promised Moses that He would perform miracles to force the king of Egypt to let the people go. He did miracles for Moses to prove to the people that He truly was God. He showed this by turning the staff of Moses into a snake and then back into the staff. He made the hand of Moses to be smitten with leprosy and then healed it. But these were only the beginning of the wonderful miracles God would perform while Moses was leading the people from Egypt. To show his power, the Lord turned Moses' staff into a snake, and back into a staff, and made Moses' hand white with leprosy, then healed it. God instructed Moses to use those signs to prove to the Hebrews that God truly was with Moses.

Until we are willing to accept the God that could have a bush burn and not be consumed, that He could turn water into blood, heal the lame, walk on water, and many miracles we are putting God in a box. Our God can do anything He wants, but we have such a finite mind, we can't comprehend it. We need the mind of a child who accepts things as he sees it.

I am reminded of a college psychology course where the professor told us that people always talked about "terrible twos and threes", but he said he preferred to call them "trusting twos and threes" because the two and three year old accepts many things and doesn't question. And, he went on to say that if you call a child terrible, he sometimes tries to be terrible. I have never forgotten his analogy. I still think he is right and that is what we must do to accept the love of God. We have to trust that God can do it. He will do it if we ask. What a wonderful promise. He didn't promise Moses that it would be easy, in fact it took the entire lifetime of Moses, but God was always with him.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, I ask Your forgiveness for the times I sinned and turned the other direction. Forgive me for the times I have neglected to see the needs of others and not taken the steps I should have taken as a Christian. Fill me with Your Spirit, give me guidance and strengthen me with Your power to serve You every day. Amen

1. How can we put God in a box?
2. How can we have the faith of a child?
3. Why is it easier to just let the other person do the job?
4. How can we find happiness through believing in God?

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It Couldn't Be Done

By Edgar Albert Guest

Somebody said that it couldn't be done
But he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it!

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it;"
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure,
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.