

## 10-27-19 DEVELOPING STRONG BONES #3 – STRONG BONES HEAR & RESPOND TO GOD EXODUS 3:1-12 --- “THE BURNING BUSH”

We are in a series that is intended to encourage us to ‘develop strong spiritual bones’ so that we can grow and mature as Jesus Followers. We have identified that our growth is helped when we develop healthy daily habits and practices ... as we need to eat nutritiously; exercise, center our minds, thoughts & emotions; get enough rest, brush our teeth & other daily hygiene, etc. LIKEWISE, as Christian Believers we need to:

1. **Read & reflect upon God’s written Word** – the Bible.
2. **Pray and visit with God** – listening to God as well as sharing – seeking God’s counsel, direction, help, and enabling.
3. **Practice spiritual hygiene** – breathing out and confessing those things that we have done that has hurt God, ourselves, or others and breath-in the cleansing & refreshing power of the Holy Spirit.
4. **Develop a spirit of generosity, kindness and grace**
5. **Develop a spirit of thanksgiving & praise to God**

Last week, we considered Genesis 12:1-12 – the story of God’s call to Abram to walk by faith & follow God. We learned from Abram the importance of hearing God and then responding according to God’s leading --- we learned that God wanted Moses to show others the ways of God and the ways of faith --- God wanted Abram and those who followed after Abram to be a blessing to the world ... helping the world to know and experience God more fully. God wanted Abram to help the world to see the TRUE GOD as opposed to the gods of human cultural & mythology.

The KEY for ABRAM was that he was OPEN & RECEPTIVE TO GOD’S LEADING – and as ABRAM grew in his faith & trust in GOD --- God helped to establish ABRAM in the context of his world to be used by God so that the world might love & revere the true God – the God of the Bible.

Today, we’re going to consider God’s dramatic appearance to & solicitation of Moses in the story known as “THE BURNING BUSH.”

As with Abraham this story will continue to HELP US UNDERSTAND:

1. New revelations of the TRUE GOD of the BIBLE
2. The developed practice of HEARING & RESPONDING to God

### S.O.A.P. to help us read

S – SCRIPTURE TEXT

O – OBSERVE

What is happening? Who?

What do I learn about God

A – APPLY

P – PRAY

### A.C.T.S. – to help us pray

A --ADORATION, ADMIRATION of GOD

C –CONFESSION

T --THANKSGIVING

S – SUPPLICATIONS – needs & concerns

### BACKGROUND to today’s text (Exodus 1-2):

- Mt. Horeb = Mount Sinai Midian = modern day Saudi Arabia
- Moses (a Hebrew baby) saved by his mother & sister per a basket
- Moses raised in Pharaoh’s palace by Pharaoh’s daughter
- Moses’ mother also nurtured Moses – Moses knew he was Hebrew
- Moses was trained in reading, writing, math, leadership, etc.
- Moses killed an Egyptian beating a Hebrew
- Pharaoh tries to kill Moses -- escapes to “Midian”(40 yrs. old)
- 40 years in Midian -- married Zipporah, daughter of Jethro
- NOTE – Pharaoh was understood to be a deity

HMMMMMM ---- Did Moses have a heart & conscience to HELP HIS PEOPLE from his position of privilege?

### Today’s Primary Text: Exodus 3:1-12

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,”<sup>???</sup> 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, 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.”

#### OBSERVE THE TEXT:

1. Moses saw a burning bush – he must have been ‘tuned in’
2. Moses was curious so he went over to investigate
3. God saw that Moses WAS RESPONDING (Did God put it out there as a test?)
4. SO -- GOD CALLED MOSES by name – GOD MUST BE “PERSONAL”
5. Again, MOSES RESPONDS
6. BUT WAIT!!! --- God says “STOP” ????? why????
7. HOLY GROUND --- what makes it holy?
8. SO FAR---- What do we learn about God?
9. Verses 7-10
  - a. GOD SAW HIS PEOPLE
  - b. GOD HEARD HIS PEOPLE
  - c. GOD IS CONCERNED – GOD CARES ---
  - d. GOD HAS COME TO “RESCUE” THEM OUT OF EGYPT and INTO A GOOD PLACE “flowing with milk & honey”
10. SO WHAT? WE HAVE MOSES IN THE DESERT --- WE HAVE A BURNING BUSH ---WE HAVE GOD, WHO CARES --- SO, HOW DOES MOSES RELATE TO THIS?
11. GOD WANTS MOSES TO DO GOD’S WORK!!!! HMMMMM ....
12. MOSES SAID --- WHO ME?
13. YUP ---GOD SAYS -- I’LL BE WITH YOU ---  
and YOU’LL BRING THEM HERE

#### HOW MIGHT THIS APPLY TO ME?

1. I’d love for God to give me a burning bush --- could it be that God is trying to get my attention? God – help me to see you?
2. Moses was in a quiet place with a quiet mind --- HMMMMM?
3. Note the 2 step process –the burning bush & then “the call” ... IS GOD TRYING TO GET MY ATTENTION? DO I NEED TO STEP CLOSER?
4. DOES GOD See me? Hear me? Is God Concerned about me?
5. HOW MIGHT GOD “hear my cries”? Hear my prayers?
6. How might God rescue me or help me?
  - o Thru my actions – Is God asking me to do something?
  - o Thru someone else?
  - o Am I being asked to HELP another?
7. WHAT DOES MY CONSCIENCE SAY? HOW DO I FEEL?
8. DOES IT HELP ME TO KNOW THAT GOD IS WITH ME? Psalms 139

#### HOW TO DISCERN IF A “WORD” is from GOD? Michael Bradley

“TEST ALL THINGS” “Test the spirits” 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 John 4:1-4

- ++ DOES THE “WORD” LINE-UP WITH THE BIBLE?
- ++ DOES THE “WORD” LINE-UP WITH THE CHARACTER OF GOD?
- ++ DOES THE “WORD” LINE-UP WITH WHAT GOD IS DOING IN YOUR LIFE?
- ++ DOES YOUR SPIRIT BEAR WITNESS?
  - And ‘inner’ word? “Peace”?
- ++ THERE IS SAFETY IN A MULTITUDE OF COUNSELORS (Prov. 11:14)
- ++ ASK GOD TO CONFIRM THE WORD FOR YOU
- ++ WILL THE WORD GLORIFY GOD? (Isaiah 42:8 & 1 Cor. 10:31)
- ++ WILL THE WORD PRODUCE LIBERTY OR BONDAGE?  
(2 Corinthians 3:17; Romans 8:15; Isaiah 61:1)

Add:

- \*\*\* Does my spouse & family concur?
- \*\*\* Is it consistent with how God has made you & prepared you?
- \*\*\* Does it move me? Does it stretch me? Will it require FAITH?

PRAYER:

*Dear God, thank you for speaking to us – through prayer, through our conscience, through the work of your creation and through other more mysterious ways. Thank you for your exciting unpredictability and for the prospect that you will one day call us to do something FAR BEYOND OUR COMFORT ZONE & seemingly beyond our capabilities. Bless our efforts to approach YOUR WORK with confidence & humility. In Jesus’ Name, AMEN.*