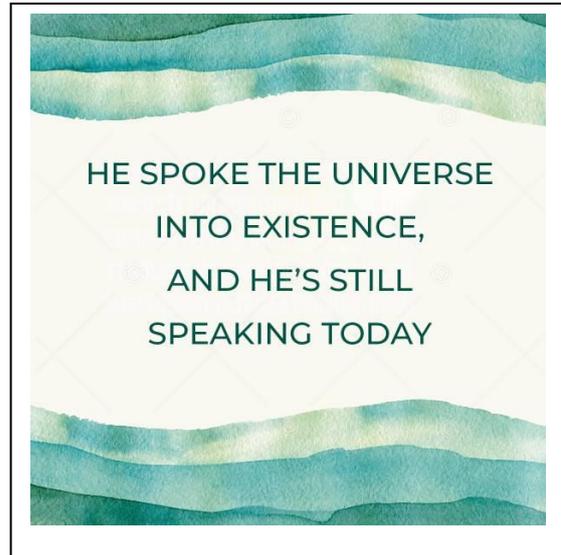


SUNDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2021.

ALWAYS SPEAKING

Exodus 3:1-15

This week, we are beginning a new 5 week series called – The Always God. And the goal is to show that just as God moved in the past – He is moving in the present as well.



God has not changed over time. And the one who revealed Himself as the Great “I AM”...the eternal, self-existent, infinite, all-powerful, all-knowing God...the “I AM” is still the “I AM.”

Let me ask you – when was the last time God spoke to you? How confident were you that it was Him? How do you know how to discern His voice? Do you believe God is still speaking today?

I would like you to imagine the following scenario. You are on the selection committee for a new pastor for your church. It has been a hard slog and you are feeling like the right person will not show up.

You open up the final application letter and read this to the group. It goes something like this:

To the Selection committee – I am applying for the position of Pastor and would like to share with you the following information about myself.

I really don't preach so well, in fact, I stutter when I speak at times. I have had a lot of different experiences though, as you would expect for a man of just over 75 years.

My first encounter with God was very recent, and despite my initial resistance to what He suggested, He did tell me that I was the one to be your pastor. It was an unbelievable experience – you just never know when God will appear right before your eyes.

I can't say I am very good in the people skills category as I tend to lose my temper every once in a while, especially when things do not go my way. In fact, I must admit I can become violent and, one time, I killed somebody.

But I know you are a gracious people and will believe me when I say – that is all in the past. I believe I am now able to lead you into a bright future. Although I was reluctant at first to work with you, I still feel called to be with you, nonetheless.

You look up at the rest of the group and ask: “Well, what do you think? Can this person be our leader or not?”

The faces on the rest of the committee show entire disbelief that you would suggest such a thing. How could an old, arrogant, temperamental, obviously neurotic, ex-murderer be their new pastor?

Are you crazy – you have such a nerve to suggest such a thing?
Now tell us – who is the applicant? You read the signature at the bottom – Moses.

When God spoke in the past, it was usually unique to the individual – a burning bush to Moses.

When God spoke, the person was sure God was speaking – God introduced Himself to Moses and Moses hid himself.

When God spoke, the person knew what God said – they may have doubted they were up for the job but they didn't doubt what the job was.

When God spoke, this was the encounter with God – there was no looking behind another door – this was the experience – God speaking.

I think you will admit that Moses did not sound like a likely candidate to receive a call from God. He didn't seem to have “the right stuff.” Isn't it amazing that God doesn't require the same qualifications for a job that we would?

Is it possible God is calling you to some kind of ministry?

What can we learn from Moses' call to ministry that might help us discern if God is calling us? I wish to cover 6 points.

One: God tends to call us out of the ordinary circumstances of our everyday routines.

After Moses had been a prince in Pharaoh's kingdom, then committed murder, he had to flee. He went to his father-in-law and became a shepherd – a humbling experience – but God had His plan. Moses was not actively looking for an encounter with God – but it happened. God was the one who made it possible for Moses to be at the right place at the right time.

God's presence arose out of Moses' mundane world. So what did God do – He made a bush to glow red-hot yet not burn up – this got Moses' attention. When God is calling you, God first needs to get your attention.

If you have trouble hearing God speak, you are in trouble at the very heart of your Christian experience for as Jesus said in John 10:27 – My sheep hear My voice and I know them, and they follow Me.

It may not be as dramatic as a burning bush but it will be something that catches you off-guard.

The question remains - Is God calling you? Is it possible that God is trying to get your attention?

Two: when God calls us, God wants to establish a relationship with us.

God told Moses that He was the God of his ancestors – the God of his father, of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob. God wanted Moses to not only know about Him but also to know Him personally.

It is essential that we know God personally when we answer His call.

There will always be scoffers who question our call and if you do not have the sense of being personally called, you can be easily shaken. But God never asks us to do something challenging without providing us with the skills to do them – and we are never alone.

Knowing that God is in our heart gives us the courage to risk, and to sometimes fail, because our ultimate goal is to please God not to please others. Sometimes our personal failures may lead to God's successes and our lives will be transformed – a whole new perspective on life is born.

Is God calling you? Is it possible that God is speaking to your heart, desiring to have a relationship with you despite any imperfections you think might stand in the way?

Three: when God calls us, it is for a definite purpose.

God was very specific in what He expected Moses to do – to lead the nation of Israel out of slavery.

Just as God has a master plan, all of us who are called have a specific role in that master plan. God desires us to be free from whatever it is that enslaves us and causes us to suffer.

The Israelites needed to be free from slavery in Egypt. We need to be free from the things that enslave us. We may call it sin or addiction, but whatever we call it, it is usually an enslavement of our own making. We find ourselves bound to persons or things that separate us from a relationship with our God.

Is God calling you? Do you have a sense of something specific that God is calling you to do?

Four: when God calls us, it is typical for us to object to it.

When Moses heard what God wanted him to do, he said, “What? Who? Me? Who am I that I should go do that?”

Have you ever made excuses when it came to striving toward what God has called you to do?

Moses was a master at it. He couldn't do what God wanted him to do because he believed he was a nobody. After all he was only a shepherd and no longer a family member of Pharaoh's court.

He couldn't do it because no one would know who God is. After all, he did not even know God's name.

He couldn't do it because no one would believe him. After all, who would believe a wanted murderer who said he talked to a bush that was burning but was not consumed by the flames?

He couldn't do it because he could not speak very well. After all, wouldn't God need someone more eloquent to speak so that the words sounded like they were God's words. How are you going to sound like God if you are slow of speech and slow of tongue?

He couldn't do it because he needed assistance. You're probably getting the idea now that Moses tried all kinds of excuses, but God still wouldn't ease up. God had an answer to all of Moses' excuses.

When God calls you, it is because God has chosen you rather than you having chosen God. Sometimes you have to follow the call because God will not ease up on you until you try.

Is God calling you? Are you making some excuse for not answering the call?

We make all kinds of excuses but it doesn't work. It didn't work for Moses, he did not get peace of mind until he answered the call. It is the same for us.

Five: when God calls us and we finally answer "Yes," God reassures us.

Moses was reminded that God would always be with him or that God would send someone to help him or that God would provide what Moses needed to get the point across. God never said it would be easy. God promised to be present "Faith makes things possible not easy!"

Is God calling you to step out in faith, to say “Yes” to God when you would rather say, “No”?

Six: when God calls us, we are generally given a sign.

Moses needed a sign because he needed to understand more about God and God’s purposes. God is not asking us to act impulsively. We are expected to test the call.

What does Scripture say about your sense of calling?

How does it fit in with your understanding with God?

How do you know for sure if it is really God who is calling you?

These are all legitimate questions when we ponder our call to ministry. God often provided signs for the people in the Bible as proof of the call. The proof may not be as obvious as a rod that transforms into a snake, but we will have a sense of peace and well-being when we are following God’s call and abiding in God’s will.

Is God calling you?

PRAYER FOR INNER PEACE.

Heavenly Father, the Bible calls You Jehovah Shalom – the God who is our peace. We come before You asking for peace in our lives, peace within our minds, hearts and souls, so that the battle of our minds will be overcome.

We ask that You give us peace within our homes so that we can live peace filled and joyful lives.

We pray that You will give us peace within our world and empower us to be peace makers.

Give us a sound mind and a peace that surpasses all understanding.

We surrender and acknowledge we cannot control people, plans or even all our circumstances but we can yield those things to You and focus on Your goodness.

Thank You today for every good gift You have given, every blessing You have sent, all the mercy we did not deserve and Yes, for every trial You have allowed into our lives. You bring good out of every circumstance.

We choose to let go and trust You.

We know that when we pray and give thanks, instead of worrying, You have promised that we can experience the kind of peace that surpasses knowledge – that's Your kind of peace Lord and it's the kind we ask You to give.

In Your Name we pray – amen.

