

Home Group Questions

the week of 11/25/2018

Exodus 3-4

CALLED TO SIGNIFICANCE Pt2

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on the ordinary superheroes of the Old Testament. This week the sermon focused on Moses' burning bush experience and how God called Moses to a life of significance, giving Moses an amazing "second chance" to change the lives of millions.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Exodus 3:1-12. Moses approached the bush that was burning, but was not consumed by the fire and quickly realized that he was having an encounter with the living God.

Moses is required to take off his sandals due to the holiness and presence of God. God surprises Moses by giving him an amazing task, but Moses tries to change God's mind through a number of "excuses."

2. Moses' first excuse to God's offer of living a life of significance that would change the world is found in Exodus 3:11, "I'm a nobody"... "Who am I?" What might have been the response of the "positive-thinking", "self-esteem" movements in our culture? What do you find exciting about God's response in verse 12?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. Share some principles from this passage about how God operates in this world, and who He uses to accomplish His work.

3. Moses' second excuse is found in Exodus 3:13. Moses is concerned that he may not have enough information and not know how to answer the legitimate questions of His people.

But God responds by giving Moses the message and the words that will answer their questions. God also reveals his personal name to Moses.... "Yahweh" (verse 14). What comes to your mind about God when you hear that name? What attributes are highlighted by the name Yahweh? How does that name, and the implications of that name contrast with the idols and false gods of the Egyptians?

What are some good responses if you are faced with a question you don't know the answer to? One web site that is helpful in growing our ability to defend our faith is www.carm.org. This web site has great articles on many different topics that you may face as you seek to give the message that God has given us as believers. **2 Peter 1:19-21** also highlights the certainty of God's Word in addressing questions that arise in our lives.

4. In Exodus 4:1, Moses conveys his fear of being rejected which is always a contrary force to leading a life of significance for God. God responds to Moses by giving powerful evidence to back up his message and his claims. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:4-7.** What evidence has the Lord given us as we live out and share our "faith"? What are some other truths that help you as you share the message God has given you, that help you to handle the rejection of others? How do you balance rejection with the responsibility of getting the Good News of Jesus Christ out to those around you? How do you avoid "caving in" to the opinions of people when it begins to compromise your obedience to the Lord?

- **The definition of "caving into the crowd"** is: "When the approval of the crowd becomes more important than the approval of God, and leads us into a life of compromise and insignificance." This implies that we have an understanding of what significance is in God's eyes, and that we hold that same understanding. What holds us back from being totally committed

to living lives of significance in God's eyes? What are some tangible steps we can make to keep our focus a biblical one?

- **Read 1 Timothy 6:11-21.** Verse 11 gives us a formula for fighting "people-pleasing." What are some other truths from these verses that we should keep in mind as we seek to live a committed, bold life for Jesus Christ?

5. In Exodus 4:10, Moses claims to not have the skills or abilities to accomplish the task, but God promises to be strong in our weaknesses.

Read Ephesians 4:15-22. The text begins with "speaking the truth in love" then focuses on the growth we are to experience in Christ. This growth happens, like our physical bodies, when we are connected to the rest of the body.

What are some of the strengths that you see in your life (spiritual gifts) and some of the blessings and challenges you face in utilizing your gifts? If you were to give advice to new Christians as they seek to begin utilizing their gifts in the church, what words of wisdom would you impart to them?

Realizing that this passage links growth and the utilization of gifts very closely, what are some ways we can encourage others in the church to utilize their gifts without putting them off or giving them a "guilt trip"?

MOVING FORWARD... Pray that you will find God's calling and the strength to do what is needed to live a life of significance!!