

God is God Enough!

Introduction : Moses, and the burning bush. When God wants to do something special through your life . . . what does he have to do to capture your attention?

Ill – My move into ministry . . . dread & awe

God arrested my attention. For Moses it was the burning bush – and at that bush he had 3 conversations with him – conversations that exposed Moses faith, and that can instruct our own today. Conversations that show how deep our faith is and are an indication of how willing we are to obey God.

What are the 3 conversations here?

1. The 1st Conversation : He is the Master (Vs 1 – 11)

The first conversation is in the first 11 verses. When Moses realized that the burning bush was a miracle of God, and that he was in the presence of God, and that he was talking to God, he was filled with a sense of dread and fear for his life – so much so that he covered his face least he see the face of God. God first arrested Moses attention with a display of his awesomeness and holiness. Moses trembled!

And then God honored Moses by telling him what he intended to do

- He had heard the cry of his people
- And seen their misery,
- He was coming down to rescue them
- He was going to bless them with a home
- And he wanted to use Moses to deliver them.

Notice – God did not ask Moses to consider being involved, God commanded him, God assumed this was his vessel, God required it of him, Moses was his servant.

Notice too, with a servant you do not have to explain yourself. God did not need to tell Moses what his intentions were, the fact that he did was a sign of how much he honored Moses.

Thirdly notice, the plan was about ‘I the Lord . . .’;

- I have seen - 7
- I have heard - 7
- I am concerned - 7
- I have come - 8
- I will deliver - 8
- I will give them land - 8
- I am sending you – 10

The plan was about God himself and what he wanted to accomplish. But after God had spoken all this, Moses responded . . . and his response was totally inappropriate . . . because Moses made the fatal mistake of turning the focus from God . . . to himself.

Moses said “*Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?*”

God had said I, I, I and Moses said me, me, me. He allowed his insecurity, and his fear of Pharaoh to overwhelm his belief in God.

What is faith? Faith is believing in God because he is an awesome and mighty God. Faith is believing in God when he commands you, even when you cannot see all the pieces, and you cannot see how they hold together. God showed Moses his awesomeness in the burning bush, God reminded Moses that he was a holy God who keeps his promises. God even explained his plan to Moses. But Moses was not ready to obey!

Here’s the question for you and I that arises out of this first conversation

Yes - God is God because he is awesome and holy . . . but is he God enough in your life to command you?

When we go out to Ngong Rd in a few months we will need a tremendous amount of help to do the work of God there . . . is God God enough in your life to command you to be involved? Have you seen his

awesomeness in days past, have you seen his might such that you will obey willingly? Is it about him, him, him and his plans or about me, me, me.

WE SAY WE ARE SERVANTS, but can our master command us? What would God have to do in your life to get you involved in his kingdom work? Must you have a burning bush experience, or is he God enough in your life? Now of-course involvement isn't just about the relocation, but the relocation is a need, and it is the call of God for us, and this is your church. What would God have to do in your life to get you involved?

Maybe God has been calling you to something specific, something else – and what you have to ask is “Is he God enough to command you?” Are you a servant who obeys, or does God have to negotiate with you?

III – Preaching from II Sam 13 – Amnon & Tamar
Ch 15 - Coup

I failed, but fortunately God is a God of second chances . . . so he entered a second conversation with Moses (Vs 12 – 4:9).

2. The 2nd Conversation : He has a track record (Vs 12 – 4:9)

In this conversation, there were 2 important things that God was communicating to Moses – the first had to do with his name. Moses question was “*who will I say sent me, what is your name, how will I identify you?*” and so God responded in vs 14 by drawing Moses to a character trait of his, before telling him his name in vs 15. “I AM WHO I AM”, or as some versions put it ‘I AM THE ONE WHO ALWAYS IS’, some versions also translate God’s words here as ‘I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE’ . . . and then in vs 15 he gives his name YHWH.

The translation of God’s response in vs 14 is very difficult, but let me try and explain what I believe God was telling Moses. God had caught Moses attention through the burning bush that did not burn. The fire that supposedly consumed the bush, was actually independent of the bush – it did not consume it – it was independent of it’s environment - it was a self sustaining fire. That fire was a reflection of God himself –

independent of his environment, time and space. He exists in the past, the present and the future and is totally self-sustaining. So his character could be translated both in the present “*I AM the one who always is* ”; and in the future “*I WILL BE the one who always is*” – the eternal, unchanging one.

I think the first important thing that God was saying to Moses was I am God, and I dwell in the past, the present and in the future, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow – my character does not change!

But there was also a second important lesson for Moses in God’s reply. Thrice he identifies himself to Moses as ‘*the God of their forefathers – the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob*’ vs 6, 15 & 16. In other words he was telling Moses I am the same God who delivered your people in the past, and who fulfilled my promises and performed miracles in your past. I have not changed, I am who I am, and I will be who I will be – the same dependable God - yesterday, today and tomorrow.

III - School fees @ NEGST . . .

You see God is God because he has a proven track record! Look at your own past – how many times has God come through for you, how many times has he answered prayers miraculously on your behalf, how many times has he been there to deliver you in the hour of need? He has a proven track record!

And now he was promising to not only deliver them, but to also give them a land of their own, to resource them from the wealth of the Egyptians, and to grant them victory over the Pharaoh and over the inhabitants of the land he would take them to. And he could trust him because he already had a proven record.

Moses heard this, and once again responded with doubt. Ch 4:1 “*What if they do not believe me?*” The Lord therefore told Moses to throw his staff to the ground and it turned into a snake. The sad thing about this is that Moses, in his inadequate response, required God to first prove himself again – the past was not enough!

God is God because he has a proven track record, but is he God enough in your life that he does not need to prove himself again?

Faith means that we go with God's proven track record – we can depend on him in the future because he has never failed us in the past!

3. The 3rd Conversation : He Created Us (Vs 10 – 13)

Which then brings us to the 3rd conversation. Vs 4: 10 – 13. First Moses had been reluctant to obey because he was afraid of Pharaoh, then he was reluctant because he wasn't sure the people would believe him, but finally he was reluctant because he just did not feel equal to the task. His inadequacies overwhelmed him!

Vs 10 *“O Lord . . . I have never been eloquent. I can't do this!”*
And so God deals with this self-focus too, and tells Moses “Who gave man his mouth, who gave him sight but can take it away and take away his ability to talk. Moses I made man, I give you the ability and I'm commanding you to go”

In other words “God is God because he created you”. And a 3rd time Moses responds to this self revelation of God and says *“Lord, please send someone else instead”*

God is God because he created you, but is he God enough in your life that you can believe he is greater than your inadequacies and brokenness?

Yes, you feel inadequate, but can you believe God can still use you? As we request you to be involved in the relocation, two things go through my mind. One is I am amazed at how frequent Moses feeling of inadequacy seem to be a struggle of many today. I think its because we are Africans. Maybe our colonial experience has something to do with it . . . maybe it's just the realization that our color skin is not welcome in many places, and so we struggle with an inferiority complex but so many Kenyans approach opportunities in life from the perspective *“I can't do this, can't you find someone else instead?”* They do not seize the moment – they stand aside and watch.

God is God because he created you, but is he God enough in your life that he is greater than your inadequacies?

The second is an interesting reality that has been observed in growing churches. The larger a church grows, the harder it is to find volunteers. There seems to be an inverse proportion between growth and the level of involvement. Maybe it's because in a church of 50 people, we all know we need to be involved . . . but in a church of 1000 people when an appeal is made for a Sunday School teacher we figure there must be 10 others who are far better than I so I don't need to get involved. When everyone thinks that way, nobody responds.

Is your God big enough to use you in spite of your sense of inadequacy?

3 times God showed his character to Moses and gave him a basis to act in faith. 3 times Moses focused on himself instead of focusing on God, and was therefore unable to trust God and act in faith, and so in vs 14 it says *“Then the lord's anger burned against Moses . . .”*

How sad it would be if God has to pass us by, we who are his choice vessel, and use others who were not his intended choice, because we didn't believe enough in him, even where we could not believe in ourselves. How sad if he has to use others in our place because we demanded he prove himself all over again. How sad if he passes us by because we refuse to obey his commands because our fears for mere mortals has overwhelmed us and we forget that God is awesome and mighty.

Is your God God enough in your life that he can command you at will?

Is your God God enough in your life that he does not need to prove himself again?

Is your God God enough in your life that he is greater than your sense of inadequacy?

My God is God enough! And I am his servant.