

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Exodus 3:1-9--July 28th, 2024

Sermon Recap:

On Holy Ground

The biggest and most grave error facing the Church today is that we do not understand who God is; therefore we do not understand who we are.

I. The Ordinary

- Three words convey the ordinary, common setting of verse 1:
 - “wilderness”- a rough, barren, wasteland on the backside of the desert.
 - “Horeb”- (Mt. Sinai)- the name literally means “a desolate place.” This is a forsaken place where no one goes and no one lives.
 - “flock”- Sheep were dumb, helpless, unadmirable, dishonorable animals. Moses, the once Prince of Egypt, was humbled to the position of shepherd.
- This was an ordinary day with an ordinary man doing his ordinary task in an ordinary place.
- God delights in taking the ordinary and transforming it into the extraordinary.

II. The Extraordinary

- Moses witnesses an extraordinary phenomenon: the burning bush.
 - This is a theophany: a visible manifestation of God.
 - This is also a Christophany.
 - V.2- the angel of the Lord spoke to Moses.
 - V.4- The messenger did not merely speak for God, he spoke as God.
 - This is a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ speaking to Moses.
 - Christ’s presence makes this holy ground.
 - This was a supernatural event. It defied all of the laws of nature; a bush with fire within it, but not consuming it. This was no ordinary fire, it was the *shekinah glory* of God.
 - A burning bush not being consumed testifies of God’s character.
 - He is eternal, unchanging, self-existent, and self-sufficient.
 - The glory of God makes this holy ground.
 - V.4- God speaks. He has revealed himself in the fire, but he now reveals himself more clearly in his own words as he calls out, saying, “Moses, Moses.”
 - The Word of God makes this holy ground.
 - Holiness means separation. God is separate from his Creation. It does not simply refer to his righteousness or perfection, though that is part of it. To speak of God’s holiness speaks of his otherness.
 - V.6a- God’s faithfulness is revealed. “I am the God who made wonderful promises to your fathers and I am the God who is here to faithful fulfill those promises.”
 - V.6b- Finally, at 80 years old, witnessing the glory of God, the holiness of God, hearing the Word of God from Christ himself, finally Moses gets it. For the first time he begins to understand who God is and who he is.
- God is transcendent. He is far above us in power and majesty and holiness and worth. But he draws immanently near his people. He is sensitive to their needs. He hears their cries. This immanence is most perfectly displayed in salvation...v.8.
- God takes the ordinary (sinful) heart and makes in extraordinary (holy) in Christ Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- What is this biggest issue facing the Church today? What is the result of that error?
- What is the significance of Mt. Horeb?
- Who was in the burning bush?
- What can we learn about the character of God from the burning bush?
- What are the two ways God reveals himself to Moses?
- What does “holy” mean?
- What makes the ground holy?
- Why was Moses warned not to come near?
- How does he respond?
- What do v.7-9 reveal about the character of God?

Application:

- Who is God according to this passage?
- Have you encountered that God?
- Who are we according to this passage?
- Has that been revealed to you in the person and Word of God?
- How has the glory and holiness of God transformed you, your family, and your church? How can (or should) those things be further sanctified by an encounter with God?

