



## **Becoming a People Who... Live by Vision**

### ***A Personal Invitation from a Personal God***

Message Notes, February 17, 2019

Exodus 3:1-12

We are exploring what it means to be **A People who LIVE BY VISION**. Not vision in the familiar sense of planning for the future, but vision from God – HIS perspective about what is good, life-giving, and eternal. A personal invitation into the purposes of our Personal God.

The story of Moses gives us insight:

Moses' story is rooted in the ending of Joseph's (Exodus 1-2): at the time of Joseph's death, the Hebrew people are well-settled in Egypt. They increase in number and the new Pharaoh does not remember Joseph; he sees the Hebrews as a potential threat, so he enslaves them. Slavery - -> killing of new born males - -> Moses floated on the Nile in a basket - -> found and claimed by Pharaoh's daughter - -> Moses grows up in Pharaoh's palace - -> (at age 40) commits manslaughter against an Egyptian - -> flees for his life - -> ends up in the wilderness of Midian - -> builds a family, raises sheep, lives in simple obscurity (for 40 years) - -> We pick up his story as he is tending his flock on a typical day - -> Exodus 3:1-12

**1. Our God is personal. He sees us & hears our cries.** Exodus 2: 23-25 (El Roi – the God who sees.)  
(God sees the plight of the Hebrew people; he hears their cries and is concerned for them).

**2. Our God is personal. He reveals himself.** Exodus 3:1-3

(God appears to Moses in a burning bush - - not uncommon, BUT this one is not engulfed in flames)

- It catches Moses' attention, and he "turns away from his flock to go and see this strange sight."
- How does God reveal himself? - - burning bushes, pillars of cloud, writings on the wall? Yes, but in SO MANY ways:
  - His Spirit whispering in our souls, through prayer, through the scriptures, through other people, through nature, through dreams, through worship... are we being attentive?

**3. Our God is personal. He wants relationship with us.** Exodus 3:4-10

- God calls to Moses BY NAME. He knows Moses. He wants Moses to know Him.
- God says, "I have seen my people, and I am coming to rescue them. Moses, I am sending YOU. I want you to be in this with me. I want to use you for my purposes. I want relationship with you."

\* Jae Lesley (visiting with us from their church plant in Angel Fire, New Mexico) gave testimony to God's presence and grace among them as their community is beginning to emerge among the people there:

- a. God's callings to us are often peculiar (like God sending Moses BACK to the Egypt he had fled)
- b. Our flesh wants to resist such callings of God (like Moses' many objections to God)
- c. When we push through such fleshly resistance, God's Spirit wells up within us, helping us
- d. Respond to the call with faith and surrender (Moses eventually says "yes, Lord")
- e. Not only are WE changed, but SO ARE those to whom we are sent (Hebrews are set free!)

**4. Our God is personal. He is with us. Exodus 3: 11-12**

Before Moses finally submits to God's call, he objects – "Who am I to go?" God does not give him assurance of all his qualifications for the mission, he simply assures him – "I will be with you, and you will *know* I have been with you - - you and my people will end up back here at this mountain where you will worship me."

Reflections:

1. Do you struggle to know the personal affection of God for you? What are the obstacles?
2. Is God calling you to something? (large or small) What (if any) are your resistances to this leading?
3. What is one tangible way you can step out in this leading with faith and obedience?