

Exodus 4

4/9/17

Sunday Morning

Knowledge of the O.T. is imperative if you are going to understand Who God is –

1. There are facets of God's character that are more easily seen in O.T.
2. It was the O.T. that the Berean saints went to when checking out what the Apostle Paul said

Acts 17:11 Now these^(Bereans) were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.

3. The O.T. saints didn't understand the symbolism
 - a. But when the N.T. is laid over the O.T. like translucent vellum paper over something to be traced it makes total sense
 - b. This is what Christ did w/ the disciples on the road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13 And behold, two of them^(disciples) were going that very day^(Sunday) to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem.

¹⁴ And they were conversing with each other about all these things which had taken place.

¹⁵ And it came about that while they were conversing and discussing, Jesus Himself approached, and *began* traveling with them.

¹⁶ But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.

¹⁷ And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad.

¹⁸ And one of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?"

¹⁹ And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people,

²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him up to the sentence of death, and crucified Him.

²¹ "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened.

V.22 (NP)

V.22 "But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning,
²³ and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive.

²⁴ "And some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see."

²⁵ And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

²⁶ " Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?"

²⁷ And **beginning with Moses** and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

The O.T. was recorded for our benefit.

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

God has called Moses to go & deliver God's people from Egypt

So far we have seen Moses ask God 3 questions

1. Who am I that I should go?

Exodus 3:11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?"

2. Who are you?

Exodus 3:13 Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?"

3. What if you're wrong? God said they would listen to Moses – Moses doesn't believe Him

3:18 "They will pay heed to what you say; and you with the elders of Israel will come to the king of Egypt and you will say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So now, please, let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.' **Ex.4:1** (NP)

Ex.4:1 Then Moses said, "What if they will not believe me or listen to what I say? For they may say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'"

V.2 The LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" And he said, "A staff."

1. "What is that in your hand"

- a. When God calls someone to service they always have something in their hand/s
- b. If you are a believer, God has called you – salvation is the just beginning of your walk
 - i. Every believer is called

Ephesians 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

1 Thessalonians 2:12 (NASB77)

¹² so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

- c. No believer is saved so they can just live their own life as they please

Romans 12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- d. That calling will not change thru your entire lifetime

Romans 11:29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

V.2 x The LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" And he said, "A staff."

1. "A staff"

- a. When your hands are full of your own stuff – God can't fill them w/ His things
- b. What is in your hand right now?
 - i. Your future plans
 - ii. Your desire to get out of a marriage
 - iii. Your desire to be married

- iv. Maybe you just want to be accepted
 - 1. My desire to be accepted by a boy, a girl, my peers
- v. To be promoted at work
- vi. A desire to be rich?
- vii. Your desire to be happy
- viii. Live life your own way
 - 1. Somethings have to be discarded b/c of what they are – hindrances to life
 - 2. Anything we love in the world's system God can't use
 - 1 John 2:15** Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
 - ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

- c. What is in your hands may not be bad things
 - i. Your family
 - ii. Your friends
 - iii. Making a living
 - iv. Your health
 - v.
- d. None the less whatever we have in our hands when God calls us must be dealt with

V.2 x "...What is that in your hand?"..."A staff."

1. "A staff"

- a. It spoke of, who Moses was – it was a shepherd's staff
 - i. He would have had that staff close to 40 years
 - ii. At first it may have reminded him of his failure in Egypt
 - iii. But later it spoke of who he was – a shepherd
 - iv. He became content w/ who he was & where he was
 - v. We know he became content by looking at names of his boys
 - vi. #1. Son – Gershom – "Foreigner"

Exodus 2:22 Then she gave birth to a son, and he named him Gershom, for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land."

- vii. #2. Son – Eliezer – "God is help"

Exodus 18:4 And the other was named Eliezer, for *he said*, " The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh."

- viii. His staff would have had a crook in one end to hook sheep – probably smooth & somewhat shiny from the wear his hands & wool fat (lanolin) – he knew just how far it would reach to hook a lamb
- b. He knew how far it would reach – but he also knew what it wouldn't do
 - i. It wouldn't turn into a serpent
 - ii. It wouldn't turn water into blood
 - iii. It wouldn't part an ocean
 - iv. It wouldn't change the course of a battle
 - 1. It was just a dry stick
 - 2. As long as it belonged to Moses – limited in scope **V.3**

V.3 Then He said, *"Throw it on the ground."* So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.

1. "Throw it on the ground"

- a. This was a call to give what was in his hand to God
- b. Some things God can't use: ego, self-will, love of money, etc.
- c. But others He can use if we give them to Him
- d. A job is no longer just a job when you give it to God

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men;
²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.
- e. Even sickness is no longer ill fortune when given to God

1 Peter 4:1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,
² so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.
- f. When Moses gave God his staff God made it into more than Moses could have dreamed of
 - i. He will carry that staff back to Egypt & it will do battle w/ the scepter of Pharaoh
 - ii. That is quiet something b/c Egyptians detested shepherds & sheep

Gen.46:34 (NP)

Genesis 46:34^(Joseph instructing his brothers) that you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' that you may live in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is loathsome to the Egyptians."

g. **Did** Moses give his staff to God?

Exodus 4:20 So Moses took his wife and his sons and mounted them on a donkey, and returned to the land of Egypt. Moses also took the staff of God in his hand.

Exodus 17:9 So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand."

h. God is saying to some of you – what is in your hand?

- i. Does your business belong to Him?
- ii. Does your family belong to Him?
- iii. Your health belong to Him?
- iv. Do your days belong to God?
- v. Some people are so overwhelmed by God's grace that they give their very being to Him
 1. The problem w/ some of us is our salvation has become common to us (we have lost the wonder of it all)
 2. Other people, in different times or places, are so overwhelmed they can't give enough
 3. The churches of Macedonia were like that

2 Corinthians 8:1 Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

² that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

³ For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability *they gave of their own accord*,

⁴ begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

⁵ and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

- vi. It is just a shepherd's staff until it is given to God – God uses small the things of life
- vii. Moses will come to the point of surrendering his entire life to God

V.3 x Then He said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.

V.4 But the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand and grasp it by its tail"—so he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand—

V.5 "that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

1. "so he stretched out his hand & caught it, & it became a staff in his hand"
 - a. He gave it to God & God gave it back – It is no longer just a staff!
 - b. Whatever is in your hand – God wants you to give it to him
 - i. You have no guarantee that He will give it back
 - ii. I can assure you that whatever you give to Him – He will take!
 - iii. He may very well give it back but it will be different than before
 - c. But God wants more than what is in our hands – He wants all of us

V.6

V.6 The LORD furthermore said to him, "Now put your hand into your bosom." So he put his hand into his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow.

V.7 Then He said, "Put your hand into your bosom again." So he put his hand into his bosom again, and when he took it out of his bosom, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh.

1. "Now put your hand into your bosom...Leprous...restored"
 - a. His hand went to his heart b/c out of the heart flows what is in a man

Prov.4:23 (NLT) Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

- b. God wants a man w/ a heart for Him

V.8 "If they will not believe you or heed the witness of the first sign, they may believe the witness of the last sign.

V.9 "But if they will not believe even these two signs or heed what you say, then you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground; and the water which you take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground."

V.10 (NP)

V.10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

V.11 The LORD said to him, "*Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?*"

V.12 "Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say."

1. "Who has made man's mouth? Or...makes him mute or deaf...blind? Is it not I, the LORD"
 - a. Moses argues that he isn't qualified to do the job
 - b. God responds that he is made just as God wanted him to be
 - c. Do you complain about how God has made you? I have plenty of times
 - d. God made me so that I know that there isn't any way I could do anything w/out His empowering – that keeps pride to a minimum
 - e. When you complain about your circumstances or how you are made or whatever seems so bad to you – in reality you are saying that God doesn't know how to do this right
 - i. Your complaining says that "I could have done a better job than You, (God) did!"
 - ii. The next time you decide to gripe or complain think about that!

1 Corinthians 10:10 Nor **grumble**, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.