

God Worked through Moses

Read Exodus 3 & 4

We talked a bit about Moses and the burning bush under our earlier section, *God Is Holy*. But now we'll survey Moses' working relationship with God.

God revealed Himself in spectacular fashion to Moses: the burning bush, the voice, the personal conversation with him. But still, Moses was more than reluctant. No matter what God promised, Moses threw up one objection after another:

- "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh?" (3:11)
- "What if they ask Your name?" (3:13)
- "What if they don't believe me?" (4:1)
- "I don't speak well." (4:10)
- "Send somebody else." (4:13)

Remember that Moses had felt so strongly about the oppression of His people that he had committed murder. The deep passion was there. But he was wanted for murder, and going to Pharaoh brought up lots of painful history. And the job God was asking Moses to do was indeed a daunting one: convince an enslaved people to follow and obey him, and convince one of the most powerful rulers on earth to release his slave labor force.

What amazes me is how patiently God responded to Moses' objections. No matter what concern Moses voiced, God took steps to meet that concern. He promised to be with him and even gave him a sign to be fulfilled later, as proof that God had indeed called him (Exodus 3:12). For the first time, He revealed to Moses the mighty name by which God would continue to be known: I AM (3:14-15). He gave Moses three miraculous signs to perform as proof to all that he spoke for the Living God (4:1-9).

After all that, Moses still tried to back out entirely and asked God to send someone else (4:13). God grew angry with Moses, but even then, He met Moses halfway. He provided his brother Aaron as Moses' spokesperson. In fact, Aaron was on his way to meet him. Moses would be as a god to Aaron, and Aaron would be his prophet (4:14-17; 7:1-2).

Such face-to-face, heart-to-heart honesty would characterize Moses' honest relationship with God over the next forty years. They would meet every challenge together.