



Sermon, Sunday August 29, 2021 “Moses and the Burning Bush”

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 3:1-15 ¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵ Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ Then the LORD said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” ¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” ¹² He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.” ¹³ But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

Introduction: Why the Lord has called us to be disciples

Dear brothers and sisters! In **Matthew 28:19**, “**Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**” is a command from the Lord that we must put into practice. Although we live in the world with various professions and lifestyles, the Lord's command to “make disciples of Jesus Christ of all nations” is a mission that every Christian must fulfill.

Recently, the media has been reporting in detail the situation the people of Afghanistan are going through. Tragedy is happening: murder, violence, and suppression of respect for human beings. What can we do as Christians in this situation? Before deciding right or wrong as to why this happened, what can we do for our suffering neighbors?

Some criticize the people of Afghanistan for failing to solve their country's problems on their own. Some countries say it is a waste spending their taxes on Afghan refugees. There are concerns that some of the refugees in Afghanistan may include terrorists, and that their religions and customs are so different that they will not be conducive to social cohesion.

People of the world and even Christians are not free from sin. However, the Gospel has the power to set us free from sin. That is why **John 8:32** says, “**You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**” Also, **1 John 4:18** says: “**There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.**”



Why did the Lord call us disciples of Jesus Christ? He called us to save individuals, families, people and the world. Therefore, we must be able to fulfill the mission of spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth as witnesses of Jesus Christ. I bless you who do your best to fulfill this mission.

Body: Moses and the Burning Bush

Today's text is about the Lord's call to Moses to save the people of Israel. The Lord tells Moses that after the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt, they would serve the Lord on Mount Sinai, where they met Moses.

It is a wonderful blessing that our lives, like Moses, are used as the Lord's instruments for the salvation of the world. However, it is not through our own power that we become the Lord's instruments and lead the souls whom the Lord treasures to become His disciples. So, in order to handle these things well, what should we not forget?

1. We must not forget that it is the Lord who gives meaning to our lives.

In today's text, Moses went to beyond the wilderness. The beyond the wilderness where Moses led his flock became a meaningful place because it is the place where the Lord's presence takes place. It is where Moses met the Lord for the first time.

Do you know when our lives are brightest? It is when we stay in the presence of the Lord. Moses receives a mission in the presence of the Lord. When Moses is in the Lord's presence he resolves to obey the Lord's call, and Moses was able to overcome his limits. He became someone who was able to live a life that benefits others.

What makes your life meaningful right now? Is it money, fame, power, recognition of others, success in children, noble ideals? Remember our lives are given the highest meaning through the presence of the Lord. I hope that everyone will realize and experience this fact.

2. Let's not forget that our identity is determined by who we are with.

The reason that Moses was able to carry out the mission the Lord gave him well was because he had a clear identity. In today's text, Moses wonders whether he will be able to carry out the Lord's call well. He worries about how a shepherd who takes care of flock in the wilderness can serve as a leader for the salvation of the Israelites. But, the Lord gives Moses a clear message that he will surely be with him.

The people of the world define who we are by our social authority, status and roles. But Christians define who we are by who we are with. Christians are people who walk with the Lord. And because the Lord is always with us, we can overcome the world. Therefore, the Lord's mission may appear to be carried out by us, but in reality, the Lord who walks with us is personally responsible for it. Therefore, those who live confidently, knowing the Lord walks with us, are not afraid in the world. But, the world is afraid of such a person. I hope that everyone becomes someone overcomes the world rather than one fears it.

3. What the Lord wants most from us is the salvation of the world.

As we live and ponder our problems, the Lord listens to the pain and suffering of the people of the world. He comforts them with love and saves them. He gives us freedom from sin, freedom from bondage, joy and peace from sorrow and tears.

The problems of human salvation and the restoration of the world are too urgent for the Lord. The Lord has established the church for these things and works through the children of the Lord.



In today's text, when Moses, who was trembling in fear, asked the Lord for the proof of the promise, the Lord did not show it right away. The things the Lord has promised us may come slowly. It may fuel our impatience.

However, in contrast to our impatience, the Lord accomplishes the things He has planned one by one. If the Lord has heard and answered my pain, you should know that He also wants to respond to the suffering of others. And He wants to use us for those things.

We must not forget that the grace of the Lord extends beyond ourselves to others. Love for our neighbor creates greater love, and through this process, the kingdom of God expands. What could be more wonderful than this? For these works, the Lord has called me and you.

Conclusion: Let's become Christians who fulfill the vocation the Lord has given us.

Now let's summarize today's sermon. We work hard day by day. And we think that we live a meaningful life. But we need to think about whether the way we live our lives is really what the Lord wants us to do. Who gave meaning to our lives? And with whom are we living our daily lives? Also, how much attention are we paying to the things that the Lord desires for the salvation of the world? What are your answers to these questions? Let's not forget that the Lord listens to the cry of those who suffer to save the world today. First of all, I hope that we who have received grace from the Lord will be blessed to use it for the Lord's precious work.

