

DISCERNMENT: A Spiritual Discipline
Why Me, Who Am I? The Call of Moses

Exodus Chapters 3 and 4: The Lord Calls Moses

3 Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called

Horeb. 2 The Lord's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. 3 Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up.

4 When the Lord saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

Moses said, "I'm here."

5 Then the Lord said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground." 6 He continued, "I am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the Lord said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. 8 I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. 9 Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. 10 So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

12 God said, "I'll be with you. And this will show you that I'm the one who sent you. After you bring the people out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain."

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10 But Moses said to the Lord, “My Lord, I’ve never been able to speak well, not yesterday, not the day before, and certainly not now since you’ve been talking to your servant. I have a slow mouth and a thick tongue.”

11 Then the Lord said to him, “Who gives people the ability to speak? Who’s responsible for making them unable to speak or hard of hearing, sighted or blind? Isn’t it I, the Lord? 12 Now go! I’ll help you speak, and I’ll teach you what you should say.”

13 But Moses said, “Please, my Lord, just send someone else.”

14 Then the Lord got angry at Moses and said, “What about your brother Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak very well. He’s on his way out to meet you now, and he’s looking forward to seeing you. 15 Speak to him and tell him what he’s supposed to say. I’ll help both of you speak, and I’ll teach both of you what to do. 16 Aaron will speak for you to the people. He’ll be a spokesperson for you, and you will be like God for him. 17 Take this shepherd’s rod with you too so that you can do the signs.”

Questions:

- 1) Have you ever found yourself on “holy ground” that changed your perspective? Have you moved from apathy or inaction to action? What did it take to move Moses? What did it take to move you?
- 2) Fredrick Buechner has said “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” Did Moses know where his deep gladness was hidden? How have you experienced the balance of “your gladness” and “the world’s need” in your own discernment?
- 3) Take some time to fill in the grid attached. If there’s time, share one story with your table:

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What stories do you tell yourself about
yourself have proved to be true?
Which have proved to be false?

Are there stories about yourself that
you do not know fully, that you only
have hints and glimpses of?

What stories do you tell others about
yourself have proved to be true?
Which have proved to be false?

What stories do others tell about you
have proved to be true? Which have
proved to be false?