

November 15 Lessons

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses had run away from Egypt out into the desert. He was living a quiet life there. He'd gotten married and had a job tending the sheep that belonged to his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. One day he took them way out past the wilderness where they could find something to eat. They settled down by Horeb, which was called the mountain of God. The sheep were happily munching away when Moses noticed that a bush was on fire. It seemed kind of strange to him, and he had this feeling that he should go see what had caused the fire. He looked at the bush. There was flame but no smoke. And it kept burning, but not burning up. "What is up with that?" Moses said to himself. It was an angel, a messenger trying to tell him something from God! It sure grabbed his attention.

Then Moses heard someone call him by name. Out there, in the middle of the desert! It was God himself talking to him, "Moses, Moses!" All Moses could say was, "I'm here."

Then God said, "Don't get any closer than you already are. And you should really take your shoes off, because this place where you are standing is holy ground. I'll bet you are wondering who I am, Moses. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he hid his face in his arms and wrapped his sleeve around his head, because he was afraid to look at God.

Then God said, "I have seen how my people who are slaves in Egypt are hurting. They cry themselves to sleep at night because their masters are mean to them and beat them and give them no rest. Their cries make my heart hurt. I have plan to get them out of Egypt and to show them their own place to live, a good place that is full of good things. I know what awful things are going on in Egypt. You are part of my plan. You are going to go to Pharaoh and march the people out of Egypt right under the nose of Pharaoh."

But Moses said to God, "Me? Are you kidding? You want to send me? Why would you think I could do this?"

"Don't worry, Moses," said God. "I will be with you the whole time. And when you and all the people get out of Egypt, then you can bring them here to this mountain and worship me."

But Moses said to God, "I'm not very popular with the Hebrew people or Pharaoh right now. What if I go to the Hebrews and say to them? 'The God whom your fathers knew has went me to you to help you out of Egypt. Let's go.' What if they say, 'What God? What's his name? What am I going to say then?'"

"Tell them this, Moses, "God says. "I AM who I AM. That's all you have to say. 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "And tell them, '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. Go tell them that."

Psalm 123

I'm looking to you, God!
I am looking to you for help and guidance.
I am looking to you for mercy.
Have mercy on us, God.

We have done wrong and we have had more than enough trouble in our hearts.
We have had plenty of hatred from those around us.
We don't need any more.

I'm looking to you, God!
I am looking to you for help and guidance.
I am looking to you for mercy.

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said here's another story about the kingdom for you:

A man was heading out of town, and he wanted his servants to take care of his money while he was gone. To one servant he gave \$5,000, to another \$2,000, and to the last one \$1,000. After the man had left, the first servant invested his money and doubled what he'd been given. So did the servant who had been given \$2,000. But the last guy dug a hole in his yard and buried his \$1,000 in the dirt. After a long time, the man came back and wanted to see how they'd done with what they'd been given. The first servant said proudly, "Look. You gave me \$5,000 and I've made another \$5,000 for you."

Excellent!" said the man. "I will promote you because you've been so good with my money." The same thing happened with the servant who had turned \$2,000 in to \$4,000. Then the last man, who had hidden his \$1,000 in the ground said, "I was too scared to do anything with your money so I hid it in my yard. But it was safe. So here's your \$1,000." The man said, "Are you kidding? Why didn't you at least give my money to someone who would know what to do with it? Let me have that so I can give it to someone else. The only way to make more, is to do more with what you have. If you do nothing, you will have nothing. Take this worthless servant out of my sight."