

God Chooses a Man

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Exodus 3:1-12; Luke 1:57-66

Dr. Jeff H. McCrory Jr.

Synopsis:

In our walk through the Bible, we are at a point where the story has become lost in the Abraham family, who through sin and circumstance are now in Egypt. God plans to bless all the families of the earth through them. How is this going to happen?

Here's the logic of the plan:

God chooses a man named Moses, to send him to save the Abraham family from oppression so that they may bless all the families of the earth. By the time we get to Jesus, we find that God chooses Jesus to save us so that we might be a blessing to all the families of the earth, Jews and Gentiles.

I.

The Scandal of Choice

Exod 3:4 God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses"

Arrogance of Choice: Hit it head on in Bible

- scandal that God would play favorites
- what about other tribes, races, nations? Swedes, Scots, Africans
- what about other religions? Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim
- why Jews? "Jews are like everybody else but even more so"

Famous statement of Jean Jacques Rousseau

"If God had something to say to Jean Jacques Rousseau, could he not say it directly instead of going through Moses?"

Arrogance of Presbyterians and Choice/Election:

- scandal of being chosen, predestined
- we often think some not chosen, some not saved
- we're the chosen ones!

*It all smacks of favoritism

Why didn't God speak to everyone all at once?

Why did God speak through a particular people?

Why did God decide to speak through Moses?

- half Hebrew, half Egyptian
- murderer, runaway, married to Birdie (Zipporah), son named Gershom (stranger)
- like everyone else but even more so!

God has a plan: Bible plan

Bible understands humans as relationships not individuals alone.

God doesn't come through the skylight to each one but comes through the neighbor who knocks on the door, and the neighbor has a name, a race, and a history.

II.

The Logic of Choice

Exod 3:6 I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham

Logic of Bible Story: Go back and review

1. Creation good/humans relational image-bearers to bless
2. Human choice corrupts creation: breaks relationships
 - animal world
 - genders
 - generations
 - earth
3. God has a plan to work through a family (Gen 12:3) to restore relationships among all things

*Last week, Tom talked about the Abraham family

God doesn't come through the skylight to each one, but comes through the neighbor who knocks on the door = relational restoring

*Bible sees life as relational: humans to animals, to each other, to earth, and ultimately to God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)

Abraham:

-has a name, a place, a history, sin, deception, etc

-in and through broken people, God plans to restore blessing

III.

Saved to Serve

Exod 3:12 When you have brought the people out of Egypt you shall serve on this mountain

TELL the Moses Story: GET OUT BIBLE

-Set up:

Exod 1:1-7 link to Abraham family now in Egypt

Exod 2:1-10 Moses born under threat of death, raised ½

Exod 2:11-16 Moses knows justice, but kills, runs away

Exod 2:17-22 Moses marries Birdie, has Stranger

*What about God's plan? MESS right now! Lost in desert

READ Moses Story: Exod 3:1-12 (Make comments)

3:1 shepherding the sheep = We start in an ordinary place

3:2 Moses sees something = God shows up in ordinary bush

3:3 Moses turns = We begin to pay attention

3:4 God turns = God looks for us to pay attention

3:4 God calls Moses = God knows your name
 3:5 Holy ground = ordinary place God shows up
 3:6 God of Abraham = biblical God of relations
 3:6 Moses fears = proper response to God
 3:12 God has a plan = send to save in order to bless
 3:11-12 God is with us = name in vv13-14 *yhvh*

Particular Story about a Particular Man:

- Moses is not an illustration; real person
- You are not an illustration; real people
- God shows up in real places through real people

*POINT = God sends Moses to save people to serve

Versus: Saved/Chosen = going to heaven by and by
 Beam me up Scotty!
 Very Western
 Biblical salvation: others, animals, dirt

*SAVED to SERVE (Exodus term) = points to Genesis

*CHOSEN to BLESS (Genesis term) = points to plan

III.

Jesus Saves

Luke 1:66 For indeed the hand of the Lord was with him

Jesus Saves Sign in LA: *Jesus Saves* (Spanish)

- Why does Jesus save?
- What is Jesus doing when he saves?

Story of Jesus begins with a man (John Baptizer)

God comes in a real person to save (yeshua) in order that we might be a blessing through the power of Holy Spirit. Expected God finally to deliver and restore creation at the end of time

Resurrection: Future restoration of creation begins before end!

You have a job: SAVED TO SERVE/CHOSEN FOR MISSION

- particular we/you
- particular place
- gathered people (all kinds here today)
- begin to bless all the families of the earth
- this is how the Kingdom comes
- through us
- *Individual and corporate acts of blessing!