

SECRET OF EFFECTIVE SERVICE

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Scripture portion: Exodus 3

In this well-known story from God's Word, we are being made to see how each and everyone of us as God's witness can become fruitful and even abundantly fruitful in God's service. All of us as fellow -believers are called by God to a high heavenly calling. He not only forgives our sins but He also wants us to serve Him as His co-workers. In two places in the Scriptures we are called God's co -workers. "For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain"(1Cor.3: 9; 2 Cor.6: 1). That privilege is not given to angels even though they are mighty angels, and that is why nowhere in the Bible do we read of angels as God's co -workers. God has called us not only with a heavenly calling but also with a high heavenly calling, to build for Him His glorious, everlasting, heavenly Sanctuary. That mystery cannot be understood by us, by any kind of worldly knowledge, or wisdom. By faith we accept it, and by the same faith we want to be prepared for our part in it. God wants us to be filled with His fullness and become His everlasting Habitation in return.

From the story of Moses we see how God prepares us for His ministry. First of all, we see that our human zeal cannot make us useful for God. Moses tried to serve God with his zeal and met with failure. Even though he made a great sacrifice in refusing to be called Pharaoh's daughters son, and showed much zeal to serve the people of God and help them, he came across failure. He had to .run away and hides himself in a desert with his father -in -law for forty years. During that period of forty years, he forgot what all he learned in Egypt. Even though the man of God was so mightily taught in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and in deeds, God could not use him. To make him forget all what he learnt in Egypt, God had to take him away from Egypt. Thus he became empty, before God could use him mightily and fruitfully.

Then God gave him a definite personal experience of his holiness. That is how the story begins in Exodus chapter 3. None of us can be useful to God by our human qualifications, wisdom, or cleverness. First of all we need to have a personal experience of the loving and the living God. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, here am I" (Exodus 3:2-4).

By living in the desert with his father -in - law for forty years, Moses became like a dry bush. Everything that he learned from the great teachers of Egypt was forgotten by him completely. Only then he could become entirely dependent upon God and God's word to serve Him and follow Him.

Then he saw the fire in the bush, and that bush was not consumed. He was made to see how God is holy. God wants us to be indwelt by Him. In a symbolic way it speaks of the experience of new birth. We know that in our flesh dwelleth no good thing (Rom.7: 18). According to God's standard, He wants us to have everlasting

righteousness. Only then we can become His co-workers for eternity in His heavenly kingdom. This burning bush and the divine fire, speak of the righteousness of God - God's own righteousness. According to Rom.10:3,4 there is God's righteousness and there is our righteousness. Moses tried to become righteous before God by his own wisdom and zeal for his people. No one could find any fault in his life at that time. He was a man of great sacrifice. Always he had some way to help his people. That way he became self-righteous. What we do in self-righteousness cannot please God. When Moses saw the fire, he understood how he had to become righteous before God.

Now the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is our righteousness, not our Bible knowledge, nor the rituals in which we take part. "But of him are ye in, Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption"(1 Cor.1: 30). By that righteousness alone we can stand before God for eternity.

Now, having become righteous, Moses heard God's voice (Exo.3: 4). After we become righteous by God's righteousness, we have to receive heavenly, definite commission to serve God in some capacity. Many believers think of salvation only as coming to meetings and going back home, or having their family prayers morning and evening or giving some money for God's service. They are satisfied with these things but do not make any inquiry from God or find out His purpose in saving them. The very fact that the Lord Jesus Christ gave all that He had to be our Savior, is proof to us that He had a high purpose in doing so. According to Col.1: 16 the Lord Jesus Christ is the creator of the whole universe. He created it by one word. He created it from nothing (Psa.33: 6 and Heb.11: 3). But to be our Savior and Redeemer He had to empty Himself as we read in 2 Cor.8: 9. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich".