

Exod. 3:1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, *"I will go over and see this strange sight --why the bush does not burn up."* 4 When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, *"Moses! Moses!"* And Moses said, *"Here I am."* 5 *"Do not come any closer,"* God said. *"Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."* 6 Then He said, *"I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob."* At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. 7 The LORD said, *"I have indeed seen the misery of My people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey --the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached Me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending 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 And God said, *"I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."* 13 Moses said to God, *"Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His Name?' Then what shall I tell them?"* 14 God said to Moses, *"I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" 15 God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers --the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob --has sent me to you.' This is My Name forever, the Name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation."*



**Come Aside.** June 4, 2006

When have you ever left what you were doing and answered a phone call, completely taking you from your current task? Interruption. When have you ever placed yourself in a situation where you would be stretched beyond your natural abilities?

Make you feel uncomfortable? Made you wish you were never even born?

Interruptions in you life. They can be very interesting. And they can be unnerving. They can also be wild and exciting.

Maybe there is more to life than I am experiencing. Maybe, I am missing out on some important 'stuff' that others have but I just can't get a handle on!

Are you any different than me?

I am looking for a transformed life that shows by my walk that the Gospel is the main thing in my life. What does that look like? It is somewhat allusive. I am looking for the Hope of transformation.

Care to join me?

In the Walk of Faith, I have been, from time to time, impressed with certain people called the Church Fathers, or the Desert Fathers. These were men, mostly, who left their life of regular-ness and became hermits to seek after God. While in Grad School, I went to see a movie by myself that was offered on campus. While I sat there, I became transfixed with the simple-ness of the message. Brother Son, Sister Moon was the movie concerning with St Francis of Assisi. After watching the movie, I too wanted to leave society and grow in love with God by myself. He wanted more to life than was offered him by his family, his community, his Church and even his government. But he was transformed.

Another "person" who did not want to be transformed was my hero from childhood; Popeye, the Sailor Man. He would say:

"*I yam what I yam.*" He was satisfied with that and did not want to change nor, do I think, could he change. He never got his hopes up too much and took what his enemy Pluto dished out to him. "I yam what I yam and that's all that I yam."

Sad. That is not how God made us. Made in His likeness.

St Francis and Popeye are the two extremes of life today. Either you see a need in life and change it or you look for the simple way out, as *that's what I yam*.

Spiritual Disciplines are what is needed. In the Spiritual walk of Life, we all need to have a spiritual renewal or reformation that will take us to the next level. But to be more correct, God is interested NOT in your Spiritual Life but in YOU! He intends to redeem it.

When I was a child, when we bought certain things, we would receive "Green Stamps." We would put the "Green Stamps" into books and then go to a Green Stamp store to turn them in for certain commercial products, such as, camping stoves, bookshelves, watches or coffee makers. Redemption stores. Got a lot of cool stuff that way!

When God takes one of us into His family through our belief that Jesus died for us, He begins to take care of the garbage we have been carrying. The Condemnation. That comes in different forms such as a father who was rarely home when his kids were growing up. It is the feeling of grief and deep self-torture of a woman who had an abortion 15 years ago. The persistent sense of regret over a lack of prayer; Those kind words unspoken and promises un-kept. This weights us down.

Apart from the Cross of Jesus, this is all normal for each man and woman. Without Jesus, we deserve to be smacked and punished for our transgressions. But the Lord has an answer to that: **Romans 8:1~5** <sup>1</sup> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of

the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

Part of the truth of the Gospel is that we don't have to be in the pit of despair. We are set free. **John 8:36** "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Our guilt of NOT measuring up to the ideal of life is a big lie. We don't have to go there. God is glorified when we believe with all our hearts that those who trust in Christ can never be condemned.

During the summer months, we would like to look at the Spiritual formation or disciplines and come away with a deeper understanding of how we can work out our salvation. It is not by works by which we can be saved but by the work of God's Spirit in sanctification. This is a long term, all your life way to become more and more like Jesus.

As with our passage this morning, Moses was on his merry way doing the same thing he had been doing for about 40 years when God interrupted him with a burning bush. God pulled his attention aside to talk with him.

When was the last time you let God take some of your time? God had a special task for Moses to do in the life of His people. I believe God has a special task for us to do in the life of His people too. Come aside and talk with Him. Take the two-week schedule and find time to come along side God in your schedule.

And take time now to remember His Gift of Salvation as we go to the Lord's Table...