

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Exodus 3:1-15
June 29, 2014

Moses was ripe for Yahweh's service when he knew he was rotten on his own.

What a difference 40 years can make!

- 1st 40: schooled by Egypt under Pharaoh = self-appointed rescuer - killer
- 2nd 40: helpless, flees - schooled in Midian under Priest, humble shepherd

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- ❖ In the light of the Burning Bush - Moses' sense of unworthiness shows.
 - Humbled before the holy God - hid his face, afraid to look at God.
 - Reverence for the awesome and sinless God
 - Was he afraid God could look into his soul and see his sins?
 - **Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?**
 - No longer relying on his former *Prince of Egypt* status
 - What could he do to bring Israel out of Egypt? - powerless
 - That's a big job! No training for something that big! - mind boggling
 - Besides, what Israelites would follow him out? - unworthy
 - He's a nobody - with no qualifications.
 - This was not false humility! It's seeing the facts. On his own - a Zero!

Now that Moses knew he was rotten on his own, he was ripe for Yahweh's service.

- ❖ In mercy Yahweh prepared Moses to be a messenger of His mercy.
 - Given a heart for Yahweh, his word and his people
 - He had discovered the troubles a big Ego causes.
 - He had tasted Yahweh's mercy in Midian.
 - Mercy shown to Moses - now called and equipped in mercy
 - Having tasted mercy - now rejoice - It's Yahweh's time for rescue!
- ❖ Yahweh equips his messenger with messages of his mercy.
 - Bring to mind his promises to the Patriarchs
 - Bring to mind his ongoing attention during his promised 400 years there
 - Yahweh reveals his heart for them. It's his time to act.

- ❖ Yahweh himself is the sweet message.
 - He's the very same God who spoke to their ancestors.
 - Know his Name - his reputation: ***I am who I am.***
 - ***I*** = A being - independent of all Creation.
 - ***Am*** = He really exists. He's always existed - eternal. Unchanging.
 - Mercy shown to Abraham - still the same
 - Unchanging: keeps his promises, on time
 - Yahweh promises: ***I will be with you.***
 - He's our strength, help, sufficiency.
 - ***I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*** Phil. 4:13
- ❖ Good news for those Yahweh sends.
 - Self-assured pastor = self-destruct.
 - But a pastor who knows he is unworthy daily thrives on God's mercy.

A pastor is ripe for Yahweh's service when he knows he is rotten on his own.

- God has equipped him to show mercy - proclaim mercy from experience
- Equipped with God's Name, revelation, revealed mercy - he shares it
- True for every child of God whom God commissions:
 - Christian marriage, parenting, member of his body....

We are ripe for Yahweh's service when we knew we are rotten on our own.

For then his mercy is our sure hope and life, our mode of operation, and we will be a blessing sent by God with his message of mercy.