

The Holy Ground of NOW

Exodus 3:1-6, "Now Moses..."

Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold,** the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. So Moses said, "I must **turn aside now** and see this **marvelous** sight, why the bush is not burned up." **When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him** from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "**Here I am.**" Then He said, "Do not come near here; **remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.**"

Ex 3:1-7

Proposition: There is contention for the sovereignty of the present moment. **Now** is holy ground. **Now** is when the kingdom breaks in. **Now** is when the presence and purpose of God are here.

Moses: fugitive, murderer, watching someone else's sheep. Moses was on his routine. Just like us.

Moses went aside, abandoned his way to see God.

God saw and called: Calling, called, QARA, identity and invitation. Recognizing something unusual and unique in Moses.

"But you can't fulfill My purpose your way. You are going to have to take off your shoes."

What is the burning bush? Christ the Redeemer

Thorn bush, God present in the midst of the common. God does something uncommon with common people, places, routine stuff. There is something more here than meets the eye.

Define holy ground, what belongs to God. God is sovereign over the present moment. **God always arrives ahead of me.** (not a place but a moment, not is God here, but am I here?!) "Before Abraham as, I am." Jn 8, He was here before I was. He is waiting for me here to see if I will go aside to connect with Him. **Is 46,** "I am...declaring the end from beginning.."

What made it holy ground?

- It was the place where he was
- The presence of the Lord "*The kingdom of Heaven is at hand.*"
- Moses turned aside
- God speaks on holy ground

The meaning of taking off our shoes

- Shake off the dust, defiled thinking, death etc. Jesus instructions...Paul in Antioch...shake the dust off your shoes.
- The shoe represents dignity. Shoeless people were the common people.
- Removing the sandal is forfeiting rights, God owns holy ground, this moment.
- **Moses would have to SURRENDER THE PAST!** to join God in the present moment.

Joshua 5:13, "Now Joshua..."

Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he **lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold,** a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, "**Are you for us** or for our adversaries?" He said, "No; rather **I indeed come now as captain of the host of the Lord.**" And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, "What has my lord to say to his servant?" The captain of the Lord's host said to Joshua, "**Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.**" And Joshua did so.

SURRENDER OUR PLANS and understanding of what God might do.

- Joshua encountered **Christ the Conqueror, wisdom and power of God**

John 13:1, "Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus..."

Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end...got up from supper, and **laid aside His garments;** and taking a towel, He girded Himself...Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "**Lord, do You wash my feet?**" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "**If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.**" (**Take off your shoes**) Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." John 13:1-9

- Peter encountered **Christ the Servant**
- Holy ground, with Peter's feet in the hands of Jesus!
- **Peter had to SURRENDER HIS LIFE/WALK**