



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 30



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DAY THIRTY

Exodus 1 - 3

Take Off Your Sandals. This Ground Is Holy.

Genesis ended with a dying man asking to carry his bones home. Four hundred years have passed since then. The family of seventy that walked into Egypt has become a nation of millions - and Pharaoh is terrified of them. Exodus opens not with triumph but with chains. The people of the promise are making bricks in the heat, their backs bent, their cries rising.

It is one of the most important things the Bible does: it does not skip the suffering. It sits in it. It lets the groaning be heard. And then it shows us what God does when He hears it.

God heard the groaning. He remembered His covenant. He looked. He was concerned. Four verbs in two verses - and every one of them is God moving toward His people before they even knew He was listening. He was always listening.

Exodus 1 begins with a new king who did not know Joseph. Four words that explain four centuries of suffering. The history was forgotten. The gratitude was gone. And fear filled the vacuum. Pharaoh's fear of the Israelites is the engine of everything that

follows - he tries to slow them with hard labour, then with murder. Neither works.

Two women stand in the way of Pharaoh's genocide. Shiphrah and Puah - midwives, whose names are recorded in Scripture while Pharaoh's is not. They fear God. They lie to Pharaoh's face. And God gives them families of their own.

The names of the midwives are in the Bible. Pharaoh's name is not. God has a long history of recording the names of the faithful and forgetting the names of the powerful. History belongs to those who fear God, not those who fear no one.

- Two women with no army, no title, no platform - standing between an empire's decree and the lives of a generation. And they held the line. Do not underestimate what one person who fears God can do.

Exodus 2 introduces Moses in the most ordinary of ways: a woman hides her baby. She sees that he is fine - that's the whole description, just that he is fine - and she cannot hide him any longer. So she makes a basket of bulrushes, waterproofs it with tar and pitch, and places her son in the Nile. The river that Pharaoh intended as a grave becomes the road to the palace.

Pharaoh's own daughter finds the basket. Hears the baby cry. Has compassion on him. And when Moses' sister - watching from a

distance - offers to find a Hebrew woman to nurse the child, Pharaoh's daughter says yes. Moses is nursed by his own mother, paid by Pharaoh's household, and raised in the palace of the man who ordered his death.

God used the enemy's system to preserve the one who would dismantle it. What Pharaoh built to destroy, God turned into a nursery. He does that. The very institution designed to crush what God is raising will sometimes be the thing that funds it.

Moses grows up, goes out to his people, sees an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, looks around, and kills the Egyptian. He buries him in the sand. The next day, two Hebrews are fighting. He tries to intervene. One of them says: who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you going to kill me as you killed the Egyptian? Moses is afraid. The thing he hid is not hidden. And he runs.

He runs to Midian. He sits down by a well. Seven daughters come to water their father's flock. Shepherds try to drive them away. Moses stands up and helps them. He is given a home. He marries Zipporah. He tends sheep in the wilderness for forty years.

- The man who will lead a nation out of Egypt spends forty years alone with sheep and silence. The palace taught him Egyptian power. The wilderness will teach him something that the palace never could.

And then the burning bush.

Moses is doing his ordinary work - leading the flock to the far side of the wilderness, to Horeb, the mountain of God. And he sees a bush that is on fire and not burning up. He turns to look. And God calls his name.

“Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.”

- Exodus 3:4

The same double-name call that woke Jacob at Bethel. The same “Here I am” that Abraham said on the mountain. God calls Moses the way He calls everyone He is about to commission - twice, by name, in a moment they could not have anticipated, in the middle of an ordinary day.

God rarely announces His appointments in advance. He tends to show up in the middle of the routine and ask you to stop and look. The burning bush was not on the itinerary. It never is. But the ones who turn aside to see - those are the ones who hear their name called.

Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. Not a temple. Not a city. A patch of wilderness on the far side of a mountain. Holy because God is there. The ground beneath your feet right now - whatever ordinary ground you are standing on today - is as holy as it needs to be if God is present on it.

God tells Moses who He is: the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He tells him what He has seen: the misery of His people, their

suffering, their cry. He tells him what He intends to do: come down, deliver, bring them out, bring them into a good and spacious land. And then He says the words that have undone every person called into something impossible:

“So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

- Exodus 3:10

Moses says: who am I that I should go? And God does not answer the question. He sidesteps it entirely. He says: I will be with you. Who you are is not the point. Who I am is the point.

God never calls the equipped. He equips the called. And His answer to every “who am I?” is not a resume. It is a presence. I will be with you. That is the only qualification that has ever mattered.

Moses asks: what is your name? And God answers with the most extraordinary name ever spoken: I AM WHO I AM. Not I was. Not I will be. I AM. The eternal present tense of a God who exists outside of time, who is not becoming anything, who simply and permanently and absolutely is. Tell them: I AM has sent you.

The God who sends you into the impossible is the God whose very name is existence itself. He does not need resources. He is the resource. He does not need time. He holds time. You are not going into Egypt alone. I AM is going with you. Speak this over yourself today:

The ground beneath me is holy - because God is here.

His answer to my “who am I?” is not a resume.

It is a presence: I will be with you.

I AM has sent me. That is enough.

TOMORROW - Day 31 Exodus 4-6

Moses has every excuse ready. I can't speak. They won't believe me. Send someone else. And God has an answer for every one of them - and one of His answers will make Moses angry. Come back tomorrow.

Day 30 of 365



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