

God is calling.
A bush may not be burning.
Answer anyway.

Moses' life prepared him for the work that God called him to engage. He was born into slavery, but the actions of his mother saved him. He was raised in a master's culture. From his vantage point as a master, he watched his people exploited and persecuted. One day he intervened. His intervention caused the death of an Egyptian, and caused his own people to mistrust him. Having no place in either culture, Moses ran away.

Moses doesn't look like a good candidate to challenge the Pharaoh. He may have been wanted by the Egyptians, and his own people didn't like him. Yet, when he turned aside to see the burning bush, he found out God intended him to be the one. He was to challenge Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of slavery. He was neither master nor slave, but he was the one. He knew what Pharaoh's world was like; he also knew what it was like to be a slave. With Aaron's help, he answered the call.

When we sometimes look back over our lives, we find that some of the challenges we have encountered have prepared us to join God's work in the world. It could be that we've experienced the death of a loved one, and that experience helps us minister to others in the same circumstance. Perhaps, we suffered an illness that makes us good support for someone else who is going through a similar illness. We might have years of marriage that make us a good resource for someone just starting their life together. There are many experiences that form and shape who we are.

Sometimes, we simply need a burning bush experience to hear God's call. I don't think we'll actually see a burning bush, but we might find ourselves in a moment when our experience might help someone else. We might see a person in despair at a funeral. We might get the feeling that we have something to share with someone. We might see something so unjust that we are moved to stand up for those who are oppressed. We never know when our burning bush experience will come, but like Moses, we've been prepared.

We might not recognize God in these moments. Moses went to see a burning bush, and found God was behind it all. Moses, however, was open to turning aside. He was open to something interrupting his daily routine. He went to see, and God called him. Darden Smith wrote book called, *The Habit of Noticing*. He makes a habit of looking around to see what's happening in his world. I think noticing is good habit for us to have. We just might notice that God is calling us to engage in the work God is doing in our world.

Pastor Parnell

(Inspired by a weekly devotion by Brian McClaren, *We Make The Way By Walking*.)