

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS**  
*Commentary by Michael Sigler*  
June 7, 2009

**God Calls Moses**

Exodus 3:1-12

**Key verse:** “So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt” (Exodus 3:10).

The call of Moses begins one of the most significant episodes in Biblical history. Through Moses’ leadership, God will deliver the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage, reveal the ten commandments, and prepare God’s people to enter the promised land.

While tending his father-in-law’s flocks in the Sinai desert, Moses encounters God in the burning bush. God speaks to Moses and calls him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Knowing that to obey means confronting the power of Pharaoh, Moses asks God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt” (v.11).

To Moses’ question, God gives the only answer any called person really needs to know: “I will be with you....” (v.12)

Like Moses, *God calls us* to join Him in the redemptive work God is doing in the world. Not all are called to be pastors or missionaries, but every believer is a called person. As we understand this calling in the United Methodist Church: “All members of Christ’s universal church are called to share in the ministry which is committed to the whole church of Jesus Christ. Therefore, each member of the United Methodist Church is to be a servant of Christ on mission in the local and worldwide community.” (*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, parag. 220)

Answering God’s call may involve anything from teaching a Sunday School class, to serving on a ministry team, to building a relationship with a co-worker with the goal of sharing Christ with her. The key is our availability and willingness to obey.

The story of God calling Moses shows us some important truths about how God calls each of us.

First, we see that hearing God’s call requires *paying attention to God’s actions in our daily lives*. Moses’ call came during an otherwise normal “day at the office.” While working at his everyday job, “tending the flock,” Moses recognized the hand of God in a burning bush and, when Moses went closer to investigate, God spoke. Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote: “Earth’s crammed with heaven, and every

common bush afire with God. But only he who sees takes off his shoes—The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.” Hearing God’s call involves *paying attention to God’s actions in our daily lives.*

Second, *God’s call normally comes as a response to people’s needs.* In Moses’ life, God’s call came in response to the needs of a suffering people in Egypt: “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry....I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them” (vv.7 and 8). If you want God to use you, but you’re not sure just how or where, your call may come as you seek to “find a need and fill it, find a hurt and heal it.” What needs do you see that God may be calling you to meet?

Third, *“the will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you.”* When God called Moses from the burning bush, Moses immediately feared the opposition he would face. So, Moses objected to God: “Who am I that I should go...?” God promised “I will be with you....” We can be sure that when God calls us, He will be with us, giving us all we need to obey the call of God on our lives.

Where is God calling you to go? What work is God calling you to do?  
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