

Holiness Is Not A Dirty Word

The world in all of its wisdom would have you believe that God is not interested in holiness anymore. In fact if you mention the word holy, it can mean different things to different people. Instead of being holy, people are moral. Morality is man given. Holiness is God given. Otherwise what would be the use of the Holy Ghost.

I mean I was a pretty moral person, but I wasn't holy.

I am reminded of several verses:

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

Romans 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Until the Holy Ghost came to inhabit this vessel, holiness could not be manifested.

I believe that God was holy, is holy, and will always be holy.

The Word says:

1 Peter 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

I believe that God in these end times is raising a holy people for a holy purpose.

Holy means: exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness. We know that God is perfect. We know that God is good. We know that God is righteous.

The ground has been prepared. The blood has been shed. The water has flowed.

Now that God has your attention, God can preach to you.

Exodus 3:1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses.

5 And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

Several things caught my attention as I studied these verses. One thing that struck me is how God sometimes tries to catch our attention. If you will notice Moses was tending the flock of another man – his father-in-law – Jethro. The next thing you will notice is that he led the flock to the backside of the desert. The hinder part or the land. The mountain of God. Horeb.

Sometimes God has to take us to a place that is not where we think we should be. I have often wondered this: what if things were reversed. We sat in the front instead of the back. We sang in the pew instead of the platform. We praised in the car, the road, the grocery store, the ball park. What if we saw God in the backside instead of the front side.

I mean what if we were not concerned about the glitter, the trappings, the glitz of worship and were concerned about the essence of worship.

The essence of God.

Ephesians 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

Now that God has your attention, God can preach to you.

Now God wants Moses' attention. An angel of the Lord appears unto Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush and Moses looks.

Let's stop there for a minute. What attracts Moses' eye? A flame of fire that appears in a bush and the flame is not burning the bush.

Now I don't know about you but if I see a burning flame that does not consume a bush, I think I might look too.

God does not choose a tall and huge tree to display a message to Moses. He does not use something big and grand. No, He uses a lowly bush in the desert. How many here tonight have been to the desert? How many know that most bushes in the desert are small and low to the

ground. They are that way because they want to get close to the water that lies deep underground. If you tried to remove these bushes, you would find that they have an extensive root system. So in other words, their tap or their main root go for approximately four or five times the size of the bush.

We view the lowly saint, the supposed meek saint, the sometimes outcast saint that we think God has no use for- just as this bush. I wonder how deep their tap root goes in Christ? Be careful church.

Revelation 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Back to this bush. A lowly bush.

Why this lowly bush?

1 Corinthians 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Here we have Moses right where God wants him. Moses is to have no glory in the flesh in the presence of God. Here then is a hint for you tonight. You can not have the flesh glory in the presence of God. The flesh can only glory in tribulations freeing the soul to reach for God.

Everyone here has felt, is feeling, or will feel the power of the Holy Ghost. Why? Because like Moses saw, we feel.

Jeremiah said it best:

Jeremiah 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his *word* was in mine heart as a *burning fire shut up in my bones*, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

Do you see what a honored position you are in tonight? Moses could only see the flame of God beckoning him to come closer. We have the fire shut up in our bones.

Shut up.

In our bones.

It is interesting that the prophet would use our bones as the vehicle for the Holy Ghost. Our bones are the very thing that supports us, moves us, and keeps us upright. It is the Spirit that gives that energy for our work for the Lord. Fire burns out all the disease, the impurities, and the dross.

Pray for my disease? If the Holy Ghost is fire, then it ought to burn it out. It ought to consume it!

Think on that.

Revelation 2:29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Fire shut up in my bones. A Spirit that once placed is retained, is kept, is forever.

Jeremiah said as a burning fire. I contend today we have the burning fire in us. The Holy Ghost!

Burn brightly in us Lord!

Mark 4:21 And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?

22 For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick? For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.

23 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

Hear church.

Now that God has our attention, let's continue.

Moses is at that moment ready to receive God's word.

God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses.

But wait there is something wrong. Have we really listened to God tonight?

Moses is told one more thing.

Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

Moses – do not come any closer until you get rid of those disgusting shoes. I wondered why God had such an issue with those shoes of Moses’.

Then it struck me.

Our God is personal. Our God talks to us. (Hold up Bible). What do you call this?

How often do we place barriers when God calls us to do something.

Remember I said before that no flesh should glory in the presence of God.

Remember these words of Jesus:

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Moses, God says, take off those shoes so that I can get closer to you. For you are standing on holy ground.

What is it that keeps us from reaching God tonight?

For Moses it was his shoes.

(Take your shoes off and place them in front of the pew)

What do you have that keeps you from coming to God?

What keeps you from serving God?

Galatians 5:9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your ***feet shod*** with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Your feet shod with the preparation, the action or process of making something ready for use or service.

Getting ready for some occasion, test, or duty.

(Take shoes off and place them in front of pew)

Who will join me and trade your shoes for the gospel of peace?

Who among you has loved ones who are lost?

Who among you are tired of your life and want a change?

Trade those shoes.

(Lay your coat in front of the shoes)

What else do you want to trade?

Lord, give me the breastplate of righteousness that I might stand holy.

That I might serve a holy God.

Come lay down whatever it is that keeps you from God.