

I. A SEASON OF “INVITATION”

2 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” 4 So 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.” Exod. 3:2-4

- A. I firmly believe that we are to know, receive, respond to, act upon, an offer from Father God to a season of what He is calling a season of invitation.
- B. “Invitations” come wrapped in many different ways. Sometimes those invitations come wrapped in human skin, and some through experiences of life.
- C. Jesus tells us that it’s the pure in heart that are truly blessed in that they will see God. I like to add, which I don’t think changes the meaning, that it’s the pure in heart who see God in every experience or invitation in life. Sometimes we have to fight hard to see God but I believe that is the invitation.
- D. Invitation - the action of inviting someone to go somewhere or to do something; offering the promise of an attractive or enjoyable experience; make a polite, formal, or friendly request to (someone) to go somewhere or to do something.¹
 - 1. Synonyms – (similar words in meaning) – Include, Accept, Welcome, Endorse, Appeal, to, Attract, Call, Press, Propose, Suggest, Tempt, Urge, Woo, Allure, Beg, Provoke, Petition, Summon, Plead, Wanted.
- E. In this story with Moses, like so many other stories of the Bible, God wraps an invitation in a very strange package – **a bush that is on fire but not being consumed**.
 - 1. Moses was in the wilderness, a secluded place. He had taken the sheep to a place of seclusion and abundance of space and food.
 - 2. While near the mountain of God (Horeb), Moses sees something unique. He sees a bush on fire but not being consumed. He has been to this place many times in his life, and has likely seen many bushes burn – but never one on fire but not consumed by the fire.
 - 3. Moses feels somehow the spiritual pull of the burning bush.

2 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

 - 4. Moses decides to turn aside.

3 Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.”

¹ Online Dictionary – Invitation; Invite; Inviting

5. God sees Moses' response and reveals his invitation.

4 So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!"

II. LESSONS FROM THE INVITATION AT THE BURNING BUSH

- A. God at times reveals his invitations through unique ways.
- B. God is looking for responsive hearts to his invitations.
- C. God is looking for earthly human agents to partner with to accomplish his work on the earth.
- D. We often are troubled by the invitation. Often we see the initial invitation as the call to change and transformation. Most of the time God's plan seems impossible for our minds to believe. In other words, we do see the cost.
- E. Often our initial response is an overwhelming sense of impossibility which causes us to negotiate some mitigated form of risk.
- F. God is seeking to anchor our faith in our partnership with him, while we seek a less risky assignment.
- G. Ultimately, God's greatest invitation is to a lifetime relationship with Him with fruitfulness and impact.

III. EXAMPLES

- A. When God spoke to Kathryn Khulman to the ministry she is most known for, her initial response was yes, but tried to argue with God like Moses as to her inability and lack of worthiness. Ultimately God spoke to her and said, *"Kathryn, I did not ask for a gold vessel, or a silver vessel but a willing vessel."*
- B. When God called A.A. Allen to power ministry, God spoke to him about his personal life. God gave him several things that he had to change and agree to. God visited him and used him to heal many people.
- C. George Müller built several orphanages. He was in constant prayer that God touched the hearts of donors to make provisions for the orphans. For example, on one well-documented occasion, thanks was given for breakfast when all the children were sitting at the table even though there was nothing to eat in the house. As they finished praying, the baker knocked on the door with sufficient fresh bread to feed everyone, and the milkman gave them plenty of fresh milk because his cart had broken down in front of the orphanage.
- D. How about everyday invitations: to love our spouses well, our children well, our friends and neighbors well, living Godly in this age, walking with God humbly, working hard for our employer, using what we have to elevate the lives of those around us.