



REFLECTIONS

February 14, 2010

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

Exodus 3:10

Called to Serve

It was a peaceful day. The sun was shining, winds were calm, and sheep were grazing on the hillside. Moses had led them there. That was his job and he seemed content with it. His family was happy, and he was in a safe place far from his upbringing.

Perhaps he was content with his way of life because he was a fugitive in hiding after he took a man's life in a fit of anger. Possibly he was resigned to the life he had in belief that any important reason for his life had passed him by. Or maybe he still had dreams—dreams of a meaningful purpose and a chance to fulfill it. We don't know what his mind held, but we do know what happened.

Just a few steps away from him, smoke was coming from a bush. His curiosity drew him toward it and as he approached it, he heard God's voice call his name, "Moses, Moses." And God's call would lead his life in a new direction.

"I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt," God said to him. Moses was stunned. How could his tranquil life draw this kind of attention? And how could he possibly be prepared to carry out such an assignment? But God called Moses to serve. He was given an important job to do.

It was an unexpected job assigned in a surprising way. It was an important one and more demanding than Moses could fully grasp. He could foresee trouble in persuading the Israelites to follow him, and he feared the encounter with Pharaoh. But he didn't know that his people would be chased into the Red Sea, or that its waters would miraculously part to provide an escape. He didn't expect to wander aimlessly for forty years waiting for a generation of people to die as the prelude for entry into the Promised Land. And when he set out on the journey, he didn't know he would never complete it.

Moses was called to serve. God came to him in an unexpected way with an assignment never imagined. The mission was clear. The challenges of its pursuit were not. Along the way there were surprises, hardships, disappointments, and delays; but there were miracles too. God was always with him.

In our lives God also calls us to serve. He calls in ways we would never expect, to places we would never choose, to face challenges we would never imagine, and to serve purposes we may never understand. Along the way our lives are filled with surprises, hardships, disappointments, and delays. But there are miracles too.

God is always with us.

"You are the light of the world."

Richard +

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