



Holy: Holy Ground March 5, 2023

Speaker: Pastor Collin Savage

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-5

Sermon Overview: Moses encountered God's presence in the burning bush on Mount Horeb because he paused and "turned aside" to notice, rather than turning away. Likewise, when we pay attention, God can speak to us by turning the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. How does Isaiah 6:1-5 picture God's holiness? How do you define holiness?
2. The most precise definition of holiness is in who God has revealed Himself to be: His transcendence and moral purity, His uniqueness and separateness. Besides Isaiah, what's another Biblical passage that reveals the holiness of God?

Sermon-Specific Questions:

1. What desert experiences have you been through in your life? What made it a desert? What lessons have you learned from them?
2. Have you ever had a burning-bush experience where you turned aside from the ordinary and encountered the presence of God? Describe the experience and how it changed you.
3. Moses responded to God's call with "Here I am." What heart posture does this reflect? Despite Moses' willingness to respond to God, God still asked Moses to remove his sandals. Why did the sandals still have to be removed? Think of your burning bush experience.

Digging Deeper:

- The ground on which Moses stood was holy because of God's presence. Likewise, when Moses traveled to confront Pharaoh and when Moses led the Israelites to the Red Sea, those paths became holy ground. Look back over your walk with God. What paths has He made holy because of His presence? How did you know He was with you?
- Moses was in the desert (or wilderness) when he encountered God. The desert is a dry and barren place. Why do you think God chooses the desert for extraordinary encounters? Who else, from the Bible, encountered God in a dry or barren place?
- Reflect on the holiness of God and his character. Reflect on the character and attributes of Moses before God called Moses. How was God able to still use Moses despite his character flaws? Also, consider why God forbid Moses from entering the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 3). Is it the same character flaw that Moses displayed in Egypt? Do you think there is a connection between the two?

Practical Application:

- Join us in these 3 Lenten Challenges:
 1. **Personal Prayer** - grab a kneeler pad and make an altar. Start and end your day in prayer.
 2. **Corporate Prayer** - join us for House of Prayer, Thursdays at 7:14 pm at the Capital Turnaround, and enjoy dinner on us! / Or plug in through Upper Zoom Prayer, Thursdays at 7:14am.
 3. **Weekly Fast** - sign up by texting "FAST" to 844-504-0861. Fast food or an activity for 24 hours, once a week.
- Use this prayer for the week as we revel in and enjoy the magnitude of God's holiness at work in us and around us.

Prayer: Lord, Isaiah 6:3 says, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the whole earth is full of His glory. Today, I am asking for your glory to come into my most impossible situations, into my losses, and I invite you to heal, save and deliver me. Would you recenter my gravity? Holy Spirit, would you fill me up with the holiness of God, so I can be fully who you created me to be? In Jesus' name. Amen.

- Serve at the Easter Sunrise service, April 8 & 9, at ncc.re.serveatsunrise
- Download the NCC app or visit ncc.re/daily to listen to short, daily teachings M-F accompanying this series.
- Make a Bible reading plan a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the [NCC app](#) to find our plan).
- Small groups just kicked off!! Jump into a small group this semester. They are all listed at ncc.re/groups.