

The Call of God
Exodus 3:1-15

“Adam I is the career-oriented, ambitious side \ of our nature. Adam I is the external, resume Adam. Adam I wants to build, create, produce, and discover things. He wants to have high status and win victories. Adam II want to embody certain moral qualities. Adam II want to have a serene inner character, a quite but solid sense of right and wrong — not only to do good, but to be good.

Adam II wants to love intimately, to
sacrifice self in the service of others, to live in
obedience to some transcendent truth, to
have a cohesive soul that honors creation and
one's own possibilities.

“While Adam I wants to conquer the world, Adam II wants to obey a calling to serve the world.” While Adam I is creative and savors his own accomplishments, Adam II sometimes renounces worldly success and status for the sake of some sacred purpose.

—David Brooks, *The Road to Character* (pp. xi, xii)

WHAT IS THE CALL OF GOD?

To feel called by God is to serve God by loving people.

When we follow God, we enter into a reverse economy of sorts. Things that bring us the praise of men will not bring us God's favor. [God] doesn't care how much money we have, how witty we are or how much praise people are willing to give us. I wish I'd have known that when I was younger.

I interpreted God's calling on my life to mean I was better than other people. I can see that clearly now. But this was a radical misunderstanding of how God works.

-Donald Miller

HOW DO WE DISCOVER IT?

God's call includes an encounter, and uncover
and a conviction.

(1) God's call begins with an encounter (v.1-4)

Exodus 3:2-4

As Moses looked, he saw that the bush was on fire but was not consumed. 3 So Moses thought: I must go over and look at this remarkable sight. Why isn't the bush burning up? 4 When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called out to him from the bush, "Moses, Moses!" "Here I am," he answered.

(2) God's Call leads us to uncover (vv. 5-10)

(v.6) Moses hid his face because he was afraid
to look at God.

The call of God usually begins with an encounter that leads us to uncover which births conviction (v. 8-15)

The Conviction of the world's deep need
(v7-10)

Exodus 3:7-10

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of My people in Egypt, and have heard them crying out because of their oppressors, and I know about their sufferings. 8 I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and to bring them from that land to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey...

9 The Israelites' cry for help has come to Me,
and I have also seen the way the Egyptians are
oppressing them. 10 Therefore, go. I am
sending you to Pharaoh so that you may lead
My people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

(Galatians 5:1) "Christ has liberated us to be free. Stand firm then and don't submit again to a yoke of slavery." Or why Jesus says, 'If the son sets you free, you will be free indeed.'
Jesus (John 8)

The Conviction of our Deep Desire (v.11)

(v.11) But Moses asked God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

"There are all different kinds of voices calling you to all different kinds of work, and the problem is to find out which is the voice of God rather than of Society, say, or the Superego, or Self-Interest"

—Frederich Buechner

"By and large a good rule for finding out is this: the kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work (a) that you need most to do and (b) that the world most needs to have done. ... The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet"

–Frederich Buechner

"When you wake up in the morning, called by God to be a self again, if you want to know who you are, watch your feet. Because where your feet take you, that is who you are"

—Frederich Buechner

The conviction of God's deep love (v.12-15)

Exodus 3:12-15

He answered, "I will certainly be with you, and this will be the sign to you that I have sent you: when you bring the people out of Egypt, you will all worship God at this mountain." 13 Then Moses asked God, "If I go to the Israelites and say to them: The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, 'What is His name?' what should I tell them?"

14 God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you." 15 God also said to Moses, "Say this to the Israelites: Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever; this is how I am to be remembered in every generation.

John 8:58-59

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." 59 So the picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

a) Starts with an Encounter b) which causes us
to uncover c) because of a conviction