A landscape photograph featuring a burning bush in the foreground, with a path leading up a hillside towards mountains in the distance under a golden, hazy sky. The scene is illuminated by warm, low-angle light, likely from a sunrise or sunset.

Experiencing The Holiness Of God
Exodus 3:1-6

Experiencing The Holiness Of God

- **Proverbs 9:10-11 NIV**, 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. 11 For through wisdom (*Me*) your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.
 - There are two major types of fear in the Bible, fear-dread and fear-revere
 - Fear-Dread is a bad kind of fear that brings torment and destruction
 - Fear-Revere is a wholesome fear translated as deep reverence, respect, honor, devotion, or awe

Experiencing The Holiness Of God

- **Matthew 10:28 NIV**, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”
- **Psalms 34:7 NIV**, The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

Experiencing The Holiness Of God

- **2nd King 6:15-17 NIV**, 15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.
 - 16 “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” 17 And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.
- The only way to get to this kind of life is to understand the holiness of God

Experiencing The Holiness Of God

- We began looking at the Holiness of God last week
 - God's holiness is manifest (*clear, obvious, and easily perceived*)
 - In His incomparable preeminence (*the highest rank, supreme authority, and first place in all things---A cut above*)
 - In His incorruptible (*something that cannot decay, perish, or be tainted by sin and death*) purity (*freedom from anything that contaminates*)
 - In His infinite *perfections* (*absolutely, immeasurably perfect in power, wisdom, and holiness... Love, grace, mercy... Discipline, wrath*)

Experiencing The Holiness Of God

- **Jeremiah 9:23-24 ESV**, 23 Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”
- **John 17:3 NIV**, “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”
 - Biblical word “know” - an intimate, experiential, and relational understanding rather than merely intellectual information

Experiencing The Holiness Of God

- The only way to know God is to experience Him
 - If we would know and love the living and holy God, we must be people who have truly encountered Him as the God who is holy
- So what happens when a finite human being really experiences a holy, righteous, supreme God?

Scripture

- **Exodus 3:1-6 ESV**, 1 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.
 - 2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.”

Scripture

- **Exodus 3:1-6 ESV**, 4 When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”
 - 5 Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” 6 And he said, “I am the God of your 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 at God.

Experiencing The Holiness Of God

- At this point in Moses' relationship with the Lord, he was a believer in the God of Israel
- Moses' mother was Jochebed and she taught Moses who God is and what God had done in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
 - She taught Moses the promise to bring His people back to the land of Canaan
 - She also saw God's hand on Moses' life
 - But now Moses appears to know very little about sacrifice, redemption, or forgiveness that God had shown Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

Experiencing The Holiness Of God

- God started where Moses was at spiritually and led or developed Him into the Moses we revere today
- God begins by establishing who He is and demonstrating to Moses His holiness

The holiness of God puts a distance between God and Moses

- **Vs. 5**, “Do not come near”
 - You don’t just rush into the presence of God without thought and preparation

The holiness of God puts a distance between God and Moses

- Jeff Bezos, Amazon founder said, “Throwing out PowerPoint for meetings was probably the smartest thing we ever did.”
 - Meetings start with each attendees sitting and silently reading a “six-page, narratively-structured memo” for about the first 30 minutes of the meeting before discussion
 - “Executives will bluff their way through the meeting as if they’ve read the memo ahead of time”
 - “There is no way to write a six-page narratively structured memo and not have clear thinking.”

The holiness of God puts a distance between God and Moses

- So what is Jeff Bezos doing having meetings like this?
 - Getting their minds ready to receive and process the information being presented

The holiness of God puts a distance between God and Moses

- **Vs. 5**, “Do not come near”
 - Moses is about to encounter the holiness of God, and he has not prepared himself
 - The burning non-burning bush should have been the first clue
 - Get your mind right first Moses before you come near

The holiness of God puts a distance between God and Moses

- **Vs. 5**, “Do not come near”
 - Jewish children in the Bible held a mindset of deep respect, obedience, and reverence toward their fathers, viewing them as central figures of authority, protection, and spiritual instruction
 - Do we have this today in our church life toward Father God?
 - Fathers were seen as stewards of a divine blessing and responsible for teaching Torah and life skills, demanding honor and obedience as part of familial and divine duty
 - Do we have this today in our church life?

God commanded Moses to show reverence for His holiness

- How is Moses supposed to get ready for God's presence?
 - **Vs. 5**, “take your sandals off your feet”
 - Signifies reverence, submission, and purification upon entering God's presence
 - Priests would remove their sandals before entering the Tabernacle
 - It symbolizes removing the defilement of the world, acknowledging God's ownership of the place, and a total surrender of one's past and future

God commanded Moses to show reverence for His holiness

- How is Moses supposed to get ready for God's presence?
 - **Vs. 5**, "take your sandals off your feet"
 - A sign of humility and acknowledgement of one's own unworthiness before a holy God
 - This act is a direct command to acknowledge the immediate presence of God Almighty
 - A household slave at that time never wore footwear

God commanded Moses to show reverence for His holiness

- How is Moses supposed to get ready for God's presence?
 - Why is God demanding this?
 - ✓ **Vs. 5**, "for the place where you are standing is holy ground"
 - Holy - being "set apart" or distinct, consecrated or dedicated for a divine purpose rather than mundane use

God commanded Moses to show reverence for His holiness

- How is Moses supposed to get ready for God's presence?
 - What made this piece of wilderness holy?
 - God was present
 - The presence of God is the source of holiness, making any location where He is present, or where He reveals Himself, "holy ground"

God commanded Moses to show reverence for His holiness

- These commands are a check on simple curiosity, establishing essential reverence, awe, and humility when approaching God's absolute holiness
 - They symbolize leaving behind unholy, earthly habits before entering divine presence
 - These instructions emphasizes that God is not to be approached casually, but with deep respect and seriousness

God commanded Moses to show reverence for His holiness

- We sing a chorus at times in our worship service
 - We are standing on holy ground
 - Is this simple chorus true?
 - If yes, then how should we come before this holy God in worship this morning?

Moses' response was to hide his face

- **Vs. 5**, “And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God”
 - Why?
 - Was it because he was a failure?
 - Was it because he had left Israel in Egypt?
 - Was it because he had walked away from God and His calling up Moses' life?

Moses' response was to hide his face

- **Vs. 5**, “And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God”
 - No one can stand in the presence of this Holy God in their own purity
 - **Romans 3:10-12 NIV**, 10 “There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

Moses' response was to hide his face

- **Vs. 5**, “And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God”
 - We stand before this Holy God only through the righteousness of Jesus given us through our faith and acceptance of Him
 - We are pronounced forgiven, free, holy
 - Then we are instructed to begin training our hearts and minds to live holy
 - **1st Peter 1:15-16 NIV**, 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

Moses' response was to hide his face

- Our sinfulness, our unworthiness will always come to the surface when encountering this Holy God
 - **Isaiah 6:5 NIV**, 5 “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”
 - **Luke 5:8 NIV**, 8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”

Moses' response was to hide his face

- Our sinfulness, our unworthiness will always come to the surface when encountering the Holy God
 - The Bible teaches that humans are inherently unworthy of God's holiness due to sin (*Romans 3:23*)
 - Yet simultaneously valuable to Him, with worth derived from His love, grace, and redemption, not personal merit
 - This "unworthy but not worthless" status means God offers unconditional grace, covering our unworthiness through the sacrifice of Jesus

Experiencing The Holiness Of God


- **Isaiah 6:6-8 NIV**, 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”
 - **Vs. 8**, Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”
- **Exodus 33:18 NIV**, Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”

Experiencing The Holiness Of God

- **Luke 5:11 NIV**, Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.
- What happened that brought about these changes in Moses, Isaiah, Peter and others?
 - They experienced the mercy, forgiveness, grace, compassion, and acceptance of this Holy God
 - Now, rather than desiring to hide their faces from God, they want to know this holy God, be in the Lord’s presence, and serve Him wholeheartedly

Experiencing The Holiness Of God

- Have you encountered the God who is Holy, Holy, Holy – the God of Moses, the God of Isaiah, the God of Peter
- Have you heard the promises in His Word that through faith in Christ Jesus your sin debt can be taken away through the blood of His Son
 - Welcomed into His holy presence with great joy
 - And transformed through our encounters with His holiness
- There is no greater question to get right in this life than one that has eternal consequences

A landscape photograph showing a burning bush on a mountain peak. The bush is in the foreground, glowing with bright orange and yellow flames. The background features rolling mountains under a hazy, golden sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is dramatic and evocative.

Experiencing The Holiness Of God
Exodus 3:1-6