

Turn Aside to See the Burning Bush ~ Exodus 3:1-4

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Guidelines: Protect confidentiality and follow the leader's prompts

Lectio Divina Rhythms/Process (Repeat three times):

- (a) Read the Scripture passage ("Lectio")
- (b) Reflect on the focus question below ("Meditatio")
- (c) Respond in quiet prayer/journaling ("Oratio")
- (d) Rest in God's invitation for you then pray/share out loud if you want ("Contemplatio")

Introduction: Moses had waited on God for many years with unanswered questions about his identity, the suffering of his people, and his calling from God and finally God appeared to him in a burning bush. Inspired by this story the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote:

Earth's crammed with heaven,
and every common bush afire with God;
but only he who sees, takes off his shoes --
the rest sit around it and pluck blackberries.

At times there are ordinary bushes in our lives that become extraordinary because they're on fire with divine activity. Do we "turn aside" to notice? Do we pause to listen to God?

Opening Prayer: "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9 and 10).

Read Scripture: Exodus 3 (NKJV)

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 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."

1st Reading: What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? Meditate on that.

2nd Reading: Perhaps like Moses as you're going about your business you're waiting to hear from God on an issue in your life or ministry? Describe this situation and how you feel about it.

3rd Reading: What is an example of an ordinary bush in your life that's on fire with God's presence? What might God be saying to you from this bush? How might this relate to your situation of discernment?