

The **presence** of God is the **point** ...

- *Of the bible*
- *Of christianity*
- *Of life*

SHAME

Psalm 51:3

For I **know** my transgressions, and my sin is **ever before me**...

Moses' backstory:

- Hebrew born and raised in Egypt
- Violent encounter leads to murder
- Flees Egypt into wilderness
- shepherd for 40 years

Exodus 2:22-25

She gave birth to a son, and he called his name **Gershom**, for he said, "I have been a **sojourner** in a **foreign land**..."

Shame tempts us to **settle**

- fear < ——— > anger
- run < ———> fight
- isolate < ———> attach
- stuck < ——— > busy

Exodus 3:1-5

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." 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**."

Exodus 3:6-11

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. 7 Then the Lord said, (He doesn't address the shame) "I have surely **seen** the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have **heard** their cry because of their taskmasters. I **know** their sufferings, 8 and **I have come down** (Coram Deo) to **deliver** them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9 And now, behold, the **cry** of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also **seen** the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 **Come, I will send you** to Pharaoh that **you may bring my people**, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

The Encounter:

- Challenging because God doesn't let Moses **settle**
 - God's antidote to settled = **sending**
 - *God does not address Moses' past*

There is a distinction between **our** ability and **God's** ability

- Our I: *I am ashamed of...I can't do it...*
- God's I: *I am your God...I will send you...*

There is a difference between believing God can use **their** story and believing God can use **my** story

Exodus 3:12

He said, "**But I will be with you**, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall **serve God on this mountain.**"

Exodus 33:15

And he said to him, "If your **presence** will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.