

Turn Your World Upside Down
Part 3 – “A Close Encounter of the God Kind”
Pastor Dale Campfield – Eastgate Community Church
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Intro:

Matt 28:19 “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow...which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

Often times, we get ourselves into a rut, doing the same old thing over and over again. Our lives lose their IMPACT due to lazy attitudes and taking things for granted. To put it simply – we’re spoiled. It’s time to turn our life as we know it UPSIDE DOWN.

During this series we will look at how to turn our way of doing things UPSIDE DOWN to make an even greater IMPACT in an ever evolving culture. Doing life differently, thinking about life differently, and refining the way we’ve always dealt with our issues in new and innovative ways. How do we change the paradigm of the church in the way we think and act towards the different issues of life? How do we allow the Holy Spirit to turn our lives “UPSIDE DOWN” in order to make a greater IMPACT for the Kingdom of God? Coming up in two weeks – a Sunday that will completely turn you UPSIDE DOWN...

Today’s sermon title: **“A Close Encounter of the God Kind”**

- Two weeks ago we looked at the [life of SAUL](#) and his encounter with God.
- Last week we looked at the [life of MARY](#), the mother of Jesus and her encounter with God.
- Today, we’ll look at the [life of MOSES](#) – and his encounter with God. He met God on the mountain, face to face. During that encounter, God gave him the Ten Commandments. He came down from that experience, shared the writings with the people. To this day our lives are turned upside down as a result.

When you have an encounter with God, you will be changed. Moses appearance even changed after having been with God. As well, what God speaks to you during those encounters, can turn your life upside down.

Question: What is an encounter with God?

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An encounter with God is when (1) He intentionally meets with us, (2) in a time of great need, (3) through unexpected circumstances, (4) to tell us something about Himself, (5) so we will know Him more intimately and, (6) learn something about ourselves, (7) even though we do not understand all of the mysterious elements of the experience.

Let's look at the encounter that Moses had with God....

Text: Exodus 24:12-18, 34:29-31

Question: What frustrations drove Moses to seek and encounter God?

I believe that God desires to have an encounter with us that will turn us upside down. I believe He desires to spend time with us, making us more like Him, thus our life will most certainly be turned upside down...

At times, I believe there are certain frustrations of life that will drive us, if you will, to seek an encounter with God. Have you ever noticed that if you get frustrated enough about a certain issue, you usually end up doing something about it.

For example...

Your kids at school... if something is happening with your kids at school, you'll eventually get so frustrated with the teacher or administration or whatever it is and show up at their door – having an encounter with them to see change.

Your politicians... once we get frustrated enough about the laws that we either don't believe in or we want to see enforced, we show up at the city meetings to have an encounter with the politicians.

Your restaurant manager... once you get frustrated enough with the service, the food, the atmosphere, etc. etc., you request an encounter with the manager.

It's often times the same with God. Once we get frustrated enough with the way things are in our lives, we desire an encounter with God.

Question: What frustrations drove Moses to seek and encounter God?

We all know the story of Moses and the encounter with God on the mountain. You just read it, or saw it on the video..... but the question is: “What drove Moses to that experience. What happened in his life that got him up on that mountain?”

1. Pharaoh Wanting to Murder Him

Ex. 2:15

"Now when Pharaoh heard that Moses killed a guard, he sought to kill Moses.”

There will be people in your life that will try and attack you. The enemy will attack you. Sometimes these frustrations can drive us bananas and get you to want to have that encounter with God.

2. His Inability

Ex. 4:10

At the burning bush, he responds to God with, “I am not eloquent”

It is often times that our own inability can be very frustrating. We don't always feel worthy or don't feel we can do what God's asked us to do. We all have those feelings of inability at times. I pray that we use those to draw us to Christ. Moses was Called, Gifted and Reluctant!

3. People Complaining

Ex. 15:24

"The people murmured against Moses"

How do you deal with whiners? They drive me crazy! High maintained, low impact people drive me crazy! Do you ever get tired of people complaining against you, speaking bad about you either behind your back or in front of your back? Of course you can't please everyone, but you want to please at least a few – and sometimes you feel like you can't please anyone, and they all talk about you! How frustrating! Let it drive you to Christ.

4. Being Overwhelmed

Ex. 18:13-14

"Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood in front of Moses from the morning till the evening. What are you doing?" said his father-in-law. "This is not good."

Have you ever felt overwhelmed with all that you have to do? The needs of people, your family, your fellow employees, etc. You have all of the responsibilities before you that you have to take care of. It can be overwhelming at times. Life truly can be overwhelming – allow it to drive you to Christ.

5. Disappointment in Others

Ex. 32:6,7

"The people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play . . . they have corrupted themselves"

We've all been disappointed by others in our lives. Our kids, our parents, our teachers, our pupils, our bosses, our pastors, our government – they can all let us down and bring forth disappointment. Moses experienced his disappointment in the people while he was on the mountain with God the first time as you can read in the text above.

6. Anger towards Others

Ex. 32:19

"Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands, and broke them at the foot of the mountain."

Not only was he disappointed in the people, he was downright angry! Moses broke all of Ten Commandments. We often times get angry at people or certain situations. What does it cause us to do – strike against them? Or, want to encounter God?

Question: Will your frustrations drive you to God or away from God?

MOSES ENCOUNTERS GOD

Allow me to recap this:

An encounter with God is when (1) He intentionally meets with us, (2) in a time of great need, (3) through unexpected circumstances, (4) to tell us something about Himself, (5) so we will know Him more intimately and, (6) learn something about ourselves, (7) even though we do not understand all of the mysterious elements of the experience.

1. Intentional. "As Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses" (Ex. 33:9).

2. Time of great need. "If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence" (Ex. 33:15).

3. Surprised. "Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone" (Ex. 34:29).

4. Message. "And the Lord passed by before him and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation" (Ex. 34:6-7).

5. Intimate. "And the Lord spoke unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend" (Ex. 33:11).

6. Change. "Moses . . . put a vail on his face. But when Moses went in before the Lord to speak with Him, he took the vail off, until he came out" (Ex. 33:33-34).

7. Mystery. "And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while by glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen" (Ex. 33:20-23).

MOSES TEACHES US PRINCIPLES TO ENCOUNTER GOD

1. God knows those who try to encounter Him. "I know thee by name" (Ex. 33:17).

2. An encounter with God is linked to His name. "I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee" (Ex. 33:19).

3. We encounter God by His principles, not on our terms.

"Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live" (Ex. 33:20).

4. Our encounter with God benefits others for whom we pray. "If thy presence go not

with me, carry us not up hence. For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight?" (Ex. 33:15-16).

5. Multitudes cannot join us in an encounter with God, it is done alone. "Come up in the morning unto Mt. Sinai . . . and no man shall come up with thee" (Ex. 34:2-3).

6. We must quote the promise of God when seeking the presence with God. "Moses said unto the Lord, see thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people" (Ex. 33:12).

7. Seek an encounter with God, not an experience or anything else. "If thy presence go not up with me, carry us not up hence" (Ex. 33:15).

8. An encounter with God has results. "The, children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses face shone" (Ex. 34:35).

If you have never really accepted Jesus as your personal Savior, would you do it right now? Would you like to have your life turned upside down by God right now? Do not delay or put it off. If you would like to receive Christ by faith, pray this simple prayer in your heart:

Dear Lord, I acknowledge that I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died for my sins on the cross, and rose again the third day. I repent of my sins. By faith I receive the Lord Jesus as my Savior. You promised to save me, and I believe You, because You are God and cannot lie. I believe right now that the Lord Jesus is my personal Savior, and that all my sins are forgiven through His precious blood. I thank You, dear Lord, for saving me. In Jesus' name, Amen.