

Pay Attention to God (Exodus 3:1-12; Mark 1:16-21)

- **Introduction:**
 - Highlighting Charlie's recent ordination as a priest.
 - Using a margarine tub and scissors as symbolic ministry tools.
- **Diverse Ministries in the Church:**
 - Description of various church roles beyond priests: choir, worship leaders, readers, sides-team, servers, welcomers, shop volunteers, tour guides, office helpers, website maintainers, gardeners.
 - Emphasis on the importance of each role in facilitating worship and church operations.
- **Ministry Rooted in Discipleship:**
 - Story of Moses and the burning bush:
 - Moses' attentiveness and willingness to listen to God's call.
 - God's commission for Moses to deliver the Israelites from Egypt.
 - Moses' initial reluctance and God's persistence.
- **Modern-Day Responses to God's Call:**
 - Common reactions to feeling inadequate or unworthy of God's call to deeper discipleship or ministry.
 - Temptation to avoid responsibility by assuming others are more capable.
- **Priests as Reflective Mirrors:**
 - Role of priests as mirrors reflecting the importance of paying attention to God and being available.
 - Priesthood as not elevating one above others but reminding all Christians of their call to discipleship.
- **Invitation to Deepened Relationship with God:**
 - Encouragement for all Christians to engage in prayer, scripture reading, and discernment of God's call.
 - Reminder that God calls everyone, regardless of perceived worthiness or qualifications.
- **Conclusion:**
 - Challenge to recognize God's call in everyday life ("burning bushes") and respond with readiness.
 - Call to embrace vulnerability and offer oneself for service in God's mission.
 - Urging the congregation to listen, attend, and renew their commitment to God's calling.

Questions:

1. How does the story of Moses and the burning bush illustrate the importance of being attentive to God's presence in our lives? Can you think of "burning bush" moments in your own life where you felt God was calling you?
2. The sermon highlights that ministry grows out of discipleship and a relationship with God. How do you understand the connection between discipleship and ministry? Can one exist without the other?
3. Moses initially felt unworthy and hesitant to accept God's call. Have you ever felt unworthy or unqualified for a task you felt called to do? How did you overcome those feelings, or how might you overcome them in the future?
4. The sermon mentions the various roles and ministries within the church, from choir members to gardeners. How can we discern what specific role or ministry God is calling us to? What steps can we take to respond to that call?
5. The priest is described as a mirror, reflecting the importance of paying attention to God and being available. How can we, as members of the congregation, reflect these same values in our daily lives? What practical actions can we take?
6. The sermon encourages us to notice the "burning bushes" in everyday life where God might be revealing His glory. What are some examples of modern-day "burning bushes" you have encountered or might encounter? How can we train ourselves to be more attentive to these moments?