

Be On The Lookout For Your Burning Bush

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Abstract: All we have to do to make a difference in his world is to believe we can. And what we have to do is to be on the lookout for a burning bush. You understand I don't mean a literal bush. I mean each of us must be on the lookout for that spark, that catalyst, that noble cause, that insight, that personal revelation which rocks your world. For whatever it is that passionately summons you to care and to act -- as Moses cared and acted -- that is your burning bush.

Let's learn Torah together. You know the story. God attracted Moses' attention to a burning bush, a bush that was completely on fire but did not burn up. The Hebrew is beautiful: *Vayar vehenei hasneh boer baesh vehasneh einenu ukal*.

Once having captured Moses' attention, God summoned Moses to free his people from slavery. At first, even Moses himself tried to persuade God that he was just one person and could do little to free the Hebrews from Pharaoh's grip. But God taught Moses that our ability to change the world does not depend upon how powerful we are but on the depth of our conviction and the breadth of our compassion.

You see, Moses did not just receive his charge at the burning bush. Moses became a burning bush! And that is what the story of the burning bush is really all about. Just as the burning bush could not be consumed, so Moses burned with a passion for justice that could not be consumed, a passion for freedom that could not be snuffed out.

As we know, Moses went on to greatness. He became one of the greatest liberators the world has ever known -- an inspiration, not just to Jews, but to every people who yearns for freedom and justice.

Through the story of the burning bush the Torah teaches us that even one person can make a difference. And we know that's true. For example, I think of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., (whose birthday we celebrate as a nation I two weeks), Jonas Salk, Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, Oskar Schindler, Raoul Wallenberg, Albert Einstein, Dr. Paul Farmer. What names come to mind when you think of one individual who has made an enormous difference?

But this list should not be limited only to famed individuals. For none of these famous people accomplished what they did because they were famous. They became famous because of what they did. Every one of us has the potential to make a profound difference in this world. Two friends are staring off into the distance. One says, "You know, sometimes I want to ask God why He allows injustice and poverty when He could do so much about it?" The second friend says, "So,

go ahead. What's stopping you from giving God a piece of your mind?" The friend replies, "I don't tell God off because I won't know what to say when God asks me the same question."

All we have to do to make a difference in this world is to believe we can. And what we have to do is to be on the look out for a burning bush.

You understand I don't mean a literal bush. I mean each of us must be on the lookout for that spark, that catalyst, that noble cause, that insight, that personal revelation which rocks your world. For whatever it is that passionately summons you to care and to act – as Moses cared and acted -- that is your burning bush!

The needs of this world are infinite and yet each of us can make a difference. It depends only on the depth of your passion and compassion. How brightly does your burning bush burn?