



# *& Trinity Mystery*

**Don't Skip the Strange Parts**

# What is the relationship between faith and mystery?



## ***Exodus 3:1-3***

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. <sup>3</sup> So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."



Hold onto a sense of holy curiosity.



"The important thing is to not stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existence. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. Try to comprehend a little of this mystery each day. Never lose a holy curiosity."

(Albert Einstein)

"People use the phrase: idle curiosity. The one thing that curiosity cannot be is idle."

(Leo Rosten)

"Curiosity has occasionally gotten me in trouble. But even when curiosity has gotten me in trouble, it has been interesting trouble."

(Brian Grazer)

"I think curiosity is everything. It's the underlying motivation to learn. It's a characteristic where you acknowledge you don't know everything and perhaps there are better ways to do things. I'm always nervous about people who aren't curious about anything in the world."

(Simon Sinek)

"When you lose your curiosity you basically have started to give up on life."

(John Maxwell)

When you sense something of the mysterious nature of God has overlapped with your world—  
theologically or experientially—go *toward* the  
mystery and not *away* from it.

## ***Exodus 3:4-6***

<sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

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FOR THE PLACE WHERE  
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***holy  
ground."***



EXODUS 3:4-5

Retain a healthy reverence for God even as you feel welcomed to explore the mystery of who God is and how God works.

## ***Leviticus 10:1-3***

Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, contrary to his command. <sup>2</sup> So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Moses then said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke of when he said: "'Among those who approach me I will be proved holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored.'"

## **1 Samuel 13:7-10**

Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. <sup>8</sup> He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. <sup>9</sup> So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. <sup>10</sup> Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him. <sup>11</sup> "What have you done?" asked Samuel.

## **Mark 6:1-6**

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup> When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?"

## **Mark 6:1-6**

<sup>3</sup> Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup> Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home." <sup>5</sup> He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup> He was amazed at their lack of faith.

***Exodus 3:11, 13, 4:1, 10, 13***

**<sup>11</sup>** But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

**<sup>13</sup>** Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

***Exodus 3:11, 13, 4:1, 10, 13***

<sup>1</sup> Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The Lord did not appear to you'?"

<sup>10</sup> Moses said to the Lord, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

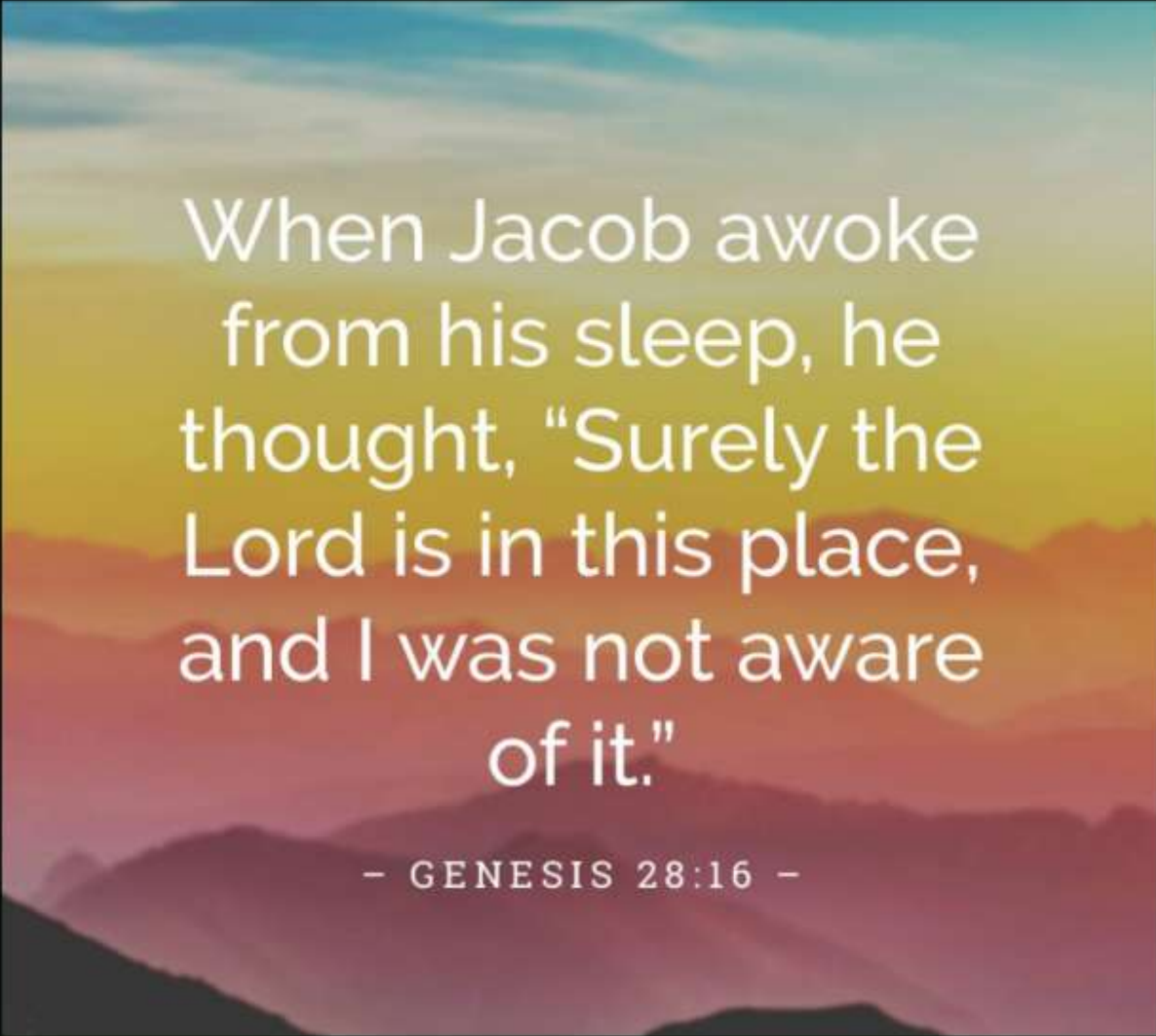
<sup>13</sup> But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else."

Bring your doubts and insecurities with you!

Bring your doubts and insecurities with you!

Don't be surprised if an encounter with the mystery of God ends up leading you into something new... and maybe a little strange.

A healthy embrace of mystery can keep us humble.



When Jacob awoke  
from his sleep, he  
thought, "Surely the  
Lord is in this place,  
and I was not aware  
of it."

– GENESIS 28:16 –

A healthy embrace of mystery can keep us humble.

To better allow the mystery of God to shape us, we need to live in such a way that we are expectant—or at least open—for God to reveal himself in strange ways.

Earth's crammed with heaven,  
And every common bush afire with God:  
But only he who sees, takes off his shoes,  
The rest sit round it, and pluck blackberries...

(Elizabeth Barrett Browning)

## Closing Reflections

How are you fostering a sense of holy curiosity? When was the last time you let curiosity teach you something new?

## Closing Reflections

Ask the Spirit to help you balance a willingness to explore the mystery of God with the need to retain a healthy reverence for God's holiness.

## Closing Reflections

What kinds of doubts, insecurities, or inadequacies tend to rise to the surface and cause moments of wrestling with God?

## Closing Reflections

Are you open to God speaking to you in strange and unexpected ways? Are you open to God calling you to strange and unexpected places?



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