

THE REAL YOU

Identity – God’s Possession

Exodus 3:5

I. REMOVAL OF SHOES (Exodus 3:5)

- Moses turned aside to see why the bush was on fire but was not consumed (*Ex.3:2*).
- God told Moses to remove his sandals because the place where he was standing was holy ground (*Ex.3:5*).
- There are many speculations as to why God asked Moses to remove his sandals; and even some religions specify this practice without knowing why.
- This action indicated the transfer of ownership of himself to God (*Josh.5:13-15; Deut.25:9; Ruth 4:7,8*).

II. LEVIRATE MARRIAGE (Deut.25:5-10)

- This practice predated Moses by over 400 years (*Gen.38*).
- Ancient law required that a dead man’s brother marry the childless widow of his brother to produce a son.
- If he refused he became cursed; the removal of his shoe signified his refusal of ownership of her (*Deut.25:9*).

III. KINSMAN REDEEMER (Ruth 4:1-10)

- Ruth was a childless widow with two kinsmen, an unnamed relative and Boaz (*2:1; 4:1*).
- The nearest kinsman to Ruth’s father-in-law refused to redeem Ruth and her inheritance (*4:1-6*).
- He signified his transfer of ownership to Boaz by removing his sandal and giving it to Boaz (*4:7,8*).

Summary:

1. Besides the account of Moses at the burning bush, there are 3 other Biblical passages which relate directly to the meaning of the removal of the sandal.
2. Joshua was told by the Captain of the Lord's Host to remove his sandal because he was standing on holy ground (Joshua 15:13-15).
3. The refusal to carry out the ownership obligations of Levirate Marriage was signified by removal of the sandal (Deuteronomy 25:5-10).
4. The refusal to carry out the obligations of a kinsman redeemer was signified by the giving of the sandal to another kinsman (Ruth 4:1-10).

Interpretation:

1. The sandal signified ownership.
2. Removal of it signified the transfer of ownership.
3. The ground was holy because God was there, like the tabernacle or the holy of holies, like you!
4. Moses removed his sandal to indicate the transfer of his ownership to God.
5. The born again believer today is in the presence of the holy – The Holy Spirit within.
6. The positional truth of the believer's true identity is that he is now God's exclusive possession.
7. When you see terms like 'holy', 'sanctified', or 'saint', be reminded that you are indeed God's possession; and as a result live a life separated unto Him (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).