

## Put Off Thy Shoes From Off Thy Feet

**Ex 3:1-6; 1 ¶ "Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. 2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. 4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. 5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. 6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God."**

**"Draw not nigh hither:"** This command reminds us that we are not the creator but the created. We are not to think so much of ourselves that we can go up to God and consider him our buddy or pal, without regard for the exalted presence of God. We are to remember our proper position and acquiesce thereto, which shows our submission, to the lowness of our position, and the highest position to God.

**"Put off thy shoes from off thy feet"** What is the significance of this command? Taking off the shoes was a sign of relinquishing of your rights, as seen in: **Ru 4:7 "Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel."** By removing his shoe, the nearer kinsman of Naomi, relinquished all his right to redeem, the property and possession of Naomi, to Boaz. This put Boaz in full possession of all pertained to Elimelech, which was now the possession of Naomi. This included the property and marrying her daughter-in-law Ruth, whom Boaz took to wife.

"Taking off the shoes" was a sign of submission to a higher authority, as seen in: **Jos 5:15 "And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so."** Joshua, by removing his shoe, was submitting to the power and authority of the "**captain of the LORD'S host.**"

These examples are of people, who have been called by God to serve him. Now, make application of this to your own life. If you know that God has done a work in your life and made you a new creature in Christ, you should lay aside your own idolatrous will, and submit yourself to God and Christ, walking and living according to his commandments. This is not an act of saving yourself eternally, which was done when God gave you the new birth.

It is the act of submitting to the lordship of Christ, by choosing to become a disciple of Christ. This is what happens when we join the church and are baptized. We are saying to God, I take off my shoes, in humble submission to your leadership and commandment. We are saying: I now recognize that you are the one true and living God, and I am just a lowly being, who desires to be a willing subject of the King, Christ Jesus. Praise the Lord, it is like scripture tells us in: **Ps 110:3 "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power,"** Help us, Lord, to be faithful servants unto you, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen!