

Life of Moses, Part 15 - - Breaking the Barriers to Faith (Exodus 3:11-4:17)

- Every “excuse” Moses had was a case of Moses having his eyes on himself
- Every solution God gave him was a case of Moses turning his eyes off himself and onto God

Map showing the Sinai Peninsula

“God said to Moses, ‘I AM the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.’” Exodus 3:6

“I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt and I have come down to bring them out of Egypt into a good and spacious land.” Exodus 3:7, 8

“So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people Israel out of Egypt.” Exodus 3:10

Excuse #1 – Past Failure

“But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’” Exodus 3:11

“And God said, ‘Moses, I will be with you.’” Exodus 3:12

Excuse #2 – “I don’t know enough, Lord.”

“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 3:13

“Moses, I AM who I AM.” Exodus 3:14

God to Moses: “Hey, Moses – I am going to do to Pharaoh what I am going to do to him -- and it has nothing to do with how much you know or how much you don’t know.”

Picture of Dwight L. Moody

You and I may not know everything about everything that God calls us to do. But the important point is that God is sovereign and His will is bigger than any lack of knowledge we may have.

Excuse #3 – “What if people oppose me?”

“Moses answered, ‘What if the Israelites do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you’?’” Exodus 4:1

“Who made you a ruler and judge over us?” Exodus 2:14

The Israelites totally rejected Moses’ leadership forty years ago. And Moses has every reason to believe they’ll do the same this time.

God gives Moses three miraculous signs to perform:

#1 – Turning his shepherd’s staff into a snake

#2 – Turning his hand leprous and then back to normal

#3 – Turning water from the Nile into blood

The purpose of these three signs was to establish Moses’ credibility in the eyes of the Israelites.

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first. No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you.” John 15:18

“The LORD is with me; I will not fear. What can man do to me? The LORD is with me; He is my defender. I will look in triumph on my enemies.” Psalm 118:6

“At my first trial, no one supported me. But the Lord stood with me and delivered me out of the lion’s mouth.” 2 Timothy 4:16

“The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom.”

2 Timothy 4:18

God rides shotgun for His servants!

Excuse #4 – “I don’t have the natural skills for the job.”

“Moses said to the LORD, ‘O LORD, I have never been eloquent. I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.’” Exodus 4:10

“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Who made man’s mouth? Is it not I, the LORD? Now then go -- and I, even I, will be with your mouth and I will teach you what you are to say.’” Exodus 4:11

Picture of Pastor A. W. Jackson – former pastor Cherrydale Baptist Church in Arlington, VA

When it comes to serving Jesus Christ, God doesn’t want you and me to have all the natural skills we need for the job.

“‘Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD.” Zechariah 4:6

“Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves – but our adequacy is from God.” 2 Corinthians 3:5

Excuse #5 – “I just really don’t want to do it, Lord.”

“But Moses said, ‘O LORD, please send someone else to do it.’” Exodus 4:13

What we are down to now is pure rebellion and disobedience on Moses’ part.

“Then the LORD’S anger burned against Moses.” Exodus 4:14

Serving God is a non-negotiable part of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

“Never be lacking in zeal, but serve the Lord with spiritual fervor.” Romans 12:11

The excuses Moses tried to give God for not serving Him are the very same excuses people try to give God today.

#1 – “I failed in the past, Lord.”

#2 – “I don’t know enough, Lord.”

#3 – “What if people oppose me, Lord?”

#4 – “I don’t have the natural skills for the job, Lord.”

#5 – “I just really don’t want to do it, Lord.”

God didn’t accept any of these excuses from Moses -- and He is not prepared to accept any of them from us.

“It’s easier for God to steer a moving ship.”

Connect Room -- following the service -- Room 1605 (First floor next to the Journeys coffee bar)

The Bible tells us that Moses began as a timid, fearful man -- and yet God used him in an unprecedented way.

The reason for this is that Moses was willing to step out in faith and say “yes” to God’s call.

God loves to take imperfect people like you and me and to do “great and mighty things through us that we know not.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

God can strike a straight blow with a crooked stick so long as that crooked stick is fully surrendered to Him.