

"The Call of Moses"

Part 2

Exodus 3-4

Introduction: Last week in our study of the Life of Moses we looked at Moses' call which took place at the burning bush. God used the bush to get the attention of Moses and then He announced to Moses that He had come down to deliver the Nation of Israel.

Notice Exodus 3:4-9

God was fully aware of all that was happening to His people. He had now come to lead them to Canaan. Now Moses did not know how this was all going to happen because he was not able to pick up the Bible and read the entire story as we can so there were probably some questions racing through his mind. How is God going to do this? Will He call ten thousand angels? Will He bring a devastating plague upon the Egyptians? Will He Himself come down and unleash His mighty power? The answer is found in the next verse and it was a shock to Moses.

Notice Exodus 3:10

God would use a man and the man would be Moses. What an honor! What a privilege! To be used by God to lead several million people from the slavery of Egypt in liberty in Canaan.

Application:

This is a picture of the very opportunity set before us today. God planned before the foundation of the world that He would call a bride for His Son. He would bless them with all spiritual blessings, He would place them into His royal family as mature sons, He would make them joint heirs with Jesus Christ, He would seal them with the Spirit, and He would give to them eternal life. How would He deliver the lost people of the world? It would be through the finished work of Jesus Christ and He would use MEN to spread the Gospel. He entrusted to us the responsibility of sharing the message of the Gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation, to a lost and dying world. What an honor and privilege we have! We have been commissioned by God to share the good news of His plan of redemption. The Old Testament prophets longed to know what we know and even the angels long to do what we have been commissioned to do.

1 Peter 1:9-12

⁹ *Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.*

¹⁰ *Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:*

¹¹ Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

¹² Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

We have Truth which the Old Testament prophets longed to have, and we are called to share the Gospel which the angels long to be able to do.

But many times, we have excuses as to why we cannot do what we have been commissioned to do. Tonight, we are going to look at how Moses responded to the call upon his life. He too made excuses but there was a major underlying problem in his life which God needed to deal with.

I. Moses' Response

We are going to look at four responses from Moses tonight and each one will shine a light upon his heart.

Luke 6:45

⁴⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

We would certainly expect Moses to bow before God and say, "Here I am Lord, send me!" We would expect him to be so thankful that God would choose to use him. But instead we see Moses objecting to the privilege and the honor which has been presented to him.

1. The First Objection.

Notice Exodus 3:11

Here we see that Moses sees himself as a nobody. To stand before Pharaoh and his military and to lead several million people out of Egypt it would take someone who was more than a nobody. Now we can look at this objection by Moses and we can determine that he saw himself as inadequate and that was a good observation. As we look at this objection, we can understand what Moses is saying.

But most likely the reason why this objection seems to be legitimate is because we ourselves have used this when God has lit a fire within us to serve Him in some way. We object by saying, "Who am I to serve in that position?" Who am I to teach that class, who

am I to carry the Gospel to that poor lost sinner? The list of these questions could be a mile long, but we get the idea from these. We object by saying, "There must be someone greater than me who can serve in that position.". We stand in objection and we say, "I have no training. I am not a preacher, I am not a college graduate, I am just a nobody."

A. God's Response

Notice Exodus 3:12

God explains here that He was not calling Moses to serve all alone. Moses would be a fellow servant with God. God would be with Him and God would sustain him. God even told him that He would be successful and that He would serve God on that very mountain when he brought the people out.

This promise of God's presence has sustained many people who have stepped out in faith to answer the call of God.

Joshua was given the same promise.

Joshua 1:1-2, 5-6, 9

Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

² Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

*⁵ There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: **as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee:** I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

⁶ Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.

*⁹ Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: **for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.***

Jesus' disciples were given the same promise.

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

*²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, **lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.***

Paul was sustained in Corinth by the same promise.

Acts 18:9-11

⁹ *Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:*

¹⁰ **For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee:** *for I have much people in this city.*

¹¹ *And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.*

Application:

When God calls us, He does not call us to go alone. He gives to us the same promise as we step out to serve Him.

Hebrews 13:5

⁵ *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

This promise should also sustain us as we walk by faith to do what God has called us to do.

Getting back to Moses; this promise did not seem to bring much encouragement to him however.

2. The Second Objection.

Notice Exodus 3:13

Moses first objection was, "Who am I?" Now here we see his second objection and it is, "By what authority am I to do what you are calling me to do?" Moses looks ahead and he anticipates the questions which he is going to be confronted with. He anticipates that Israel's leaders will ask, "Who has appointed you? Who has sent you?"

Application:

This is the very same objection believers use today. We have all had opportunities to share the Gospel with someone only to stop short because we have anticipated that those who we would speak to would question the authority of our message. We can just hear them saying, "How do you know that what you are believing is true?" We hear them saying, "How do you know that THE WAY which you claim to be the only WAY is the right way?"

We anticipate the very words which Pilate said to Jesus.

John 18:37-38

³⁷ Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

³⁸ Pilate saith unto him, **What is truth?** And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

This is something we fear. Someone may ask, "How do you know you have the Truth?" They may say, "What makes you so sure the Bible is true?" They may then say, "That Book is full of contradictions!" These are all questions of authority and we shrink at the thought of having our authority challenged. So, the fear of this silences us. The bottom line those who shrink back in fear are ashamed of God's Word. Some would push back on that and say, "No I am not ashamed!" Then my question is why are you afraid to proclaim the Truth and to stand upon the Truth? Let me show you that Words of our Lord.

Luke 9:26

²⁶ For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.

A. God's Response

Notice Exodus 3:14

God told Moses he was to tell the people of Israel that "I AM THAT I AM" sent him. This is one of the amazing names of God. God was telling Moses here that he was to tell Israel that the transcendent, sovereign, self-sustaining God of Israel had sent Him.

This name of God was used by John in his Gospel to show the deity of Jesus Christ. Let us notice some verses.

John 8:12

¹² Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world:** he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 10:9

⁹ **I am the door:** by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

John 10:11

¹¹ **I am the good shepherd:** the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 11:25

²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 15:1

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

Application:

This is the One who gives to us the authority to go into all the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have the authority of the transcendent, sovereign, self-sustaining eternal God. We should never be concerned about what the world thinks. Let us also keep in mind the message which we proclaim contains the power of our God also.

Romans 1:16

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Let us take this thought a little further.

Notice Exodus 3:15

Moses was to let his audience know that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had sent him and had ordained the message which he had for them.

There are going to always be critics and sceptics and they will do all they can to silence us. We see it today with the "politically correct" movement. Society says we cannot speak out against homosexuality, abortion, or immorality. We are to accept, tolerate and embrace the sinful practices of these groups. If we do speak out against them then we are labeled as a bigot, intolerant, and referred to those who use hate speech. But these people are enslaved to sin. They are chained to that which they practice, and they have placed themselves into fortresses which they cannot escape.

2 Corinthians 10:4

⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;))

The words "strong holds" means "fortresses". There is only one weapon which can destroy the fortresses which sinners are entrapped in and that weapon is the Word of God. It

MUST be proclaimed if people are going to be set free. Sin must be called what it is. Abortion is murder, homosexuality is an abomination and those involved in these practices need salvation.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

⁹ *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? **Be not deceived**: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,*

¹⁰ *Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, **shall inherit the kingdom of God.***

¹¹ *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

Conclusion:

Let us go into the world knowing that the Great I AM has given to us the authority to proclaim the Gospel.

Leviticus 19:17

¹⁷ *Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.*