

"The Call of Moses"

Part 3

Exodus 3-4

Introduction: Last week in our study of the life of Moses we were looking at Moses' response to God's call upon his life. God met Moses at the burning bush and used the bush to get his attention. Once God had his attention, He then explained that He was aware of what Israel was going through and that He had come down to deliver His people from the oppression.

Notice Exodus 3:7-9

Moses did not know how God was going to deliver His people, but he quickly found out.

Notice Exodus 3:10

God announced that He was going to use a man and that man was Moses. Now we would expect that Moses would be thrilled with the opportunity to serve the Lord by leading several million people out of slavery but instead of submission by Moses we see objections. Last week we looked at two of the objections.

1. The First Objection

Notice Exodus 3:11

Moses saw himself as a nobody and completely inadequate. His thinking was that it would take more than a nobody to lead several million people out of Egypt.

a. God's Response

Notice Exodus 3:12

God informed Moses that he would not be alone, but that God would be with Him and that as a token to prove that Moses would serve God on the very mountain he was standing after he led them out. Let us not miss what God is saying here. He was assuring Moses that He would be with him and that his ministry would be successful.

Application:

This very promise of God's presence has sustained many people over the years. It sustained Joshua, the Disciples, Paul in Corinth and the same promise is given to each of us wherever we go. God is with us and if I combine what we looked at on Wednesday evening we know that all things work together for our good.

Romans 8:28, 31-37

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

³³ Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

³⁴ Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Getting back to Moses, we would think that God's promise would motivate him to step out in faith but there are yet three more objections.

2. The Second Objection.

Notice Exodus 3:13

Moses looked ahead and he anticipated that the elders of Israel would question Moses' authority. The first objection was, "Who am I?" the second objection is, "Who are You?" Moses could just hear the people asking, "Who sent you, who appointed you to be our leader, what authority do you have to be our leader?" He did not like the thought of having his authority questioned so he objected.

Application:

We are just as guilty as Moses. We look ahead to an anticipated conversation and we can hear people asking questions. "How do you know the Bible is True, who are you to say there is only One Way to heaven, what about all the other religions, are you saying that God would send people to hell that have never heard the message of the Gospel?" We shy away from questions like these and often we object to God's leading because we do not want to face the questions.

a. God's Response.

Notice Exodus 3:14

God told Moses he was to tell them that the Eternal, Self-sustaining, Transcendent God of the universe had sent him and had given to him the authority to be their leader. This too should have motivated Moses but instead we see another objection.

3. The Third Objection

Notice Exodus 4:1

Now in this objection Moses says, "What if they will not believe me or listen to me?" This is such a familiar excuse which believers use all the time today. God moves your heart to witness to a friend or a loved one and in your mind, you anticipate the conversation and you actually live the meeting in your mind and as this happens in your mind you anticipate that they will never believe you. That is exactly what Moses is doing here. He was correct in that some of the people would not believe him but there would be some who would.

Application:

Is this not often our excuse? I have heard believers protest someone going to a certain family to witness and the reason they protest is because they do not believe the family will listen. There are going to be people who will not listen to our message of the Gospel but there are many who will. We cannot allow the sceptics to keep us from walking in obedience to the will of God.

2 Peter 3:3-10

³ *Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,*

⁴ *And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

⁵ *For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*

⁶ *Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

⁷ *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

⁸ *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

¹⁰ *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

Here in these verses Peter tells us there will be sceptics but that does not in anyway change the Truth of God's Word. The message still must be proclaimed.

a. God's Response.

Notice Exodus 4:2-9

God would give three signs for Moses to use to confirm that he was truly sent by God. His rod would turn into a snake, his hand would be leprous and then be healed, and he could pour water from the Nile and it would become blood. These would be three miraculous signs that would give proof that Moses' message was authentic and that he had been commissioned by God.

This takes my mind to the New Testament and how God gave certain gifts to the Apostles to confirm their message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 2:3-4

³ *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; {The Apostles}*

⁴ **God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles,** *and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?*

The sign gifts were for the purpose of affirming the message of the Gospel.

Matthew 9:2-7

² *And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.*

³ *And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth.*

⁴ *And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?*

⁵ *For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?*

⁶ But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

⁷ And he arose, and departed to his house.

Here we see that Jesus' miracles were for the purpose of proving that He had power on earth to forgive sin. The miracles showed that He was authentic, He was the Messiah. In the same way the Apostles were given the miraculous gifts to affirm the authenticity of their message and to separate them from the false apostles. Those sign gifts ended with the Apostles and so no one has the sign gifts today.

Application:

We do not have the sign gifts today but there are signs that affirm our message is from God and that we have been commissioned by God. Let me explain what those signs are.

1. The Fruit of the Ministry.

2 Corinthians 3:1-2

Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?

² *Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:*

The changed lives of the Corinthians were the proof that Paul was sent by God with a message from God.

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.*

The Corinthians were the product of Paul's ministry and they were a "sign" that Paul and his message were authentic.

2. The Character of the Individual.

Another sign that follows us as we pass through this dark world is our character. If people are going to believe the Gospel which we proclaim then we **MUST** be people of integrity. You cannot live in sin and expect people to believe your message from God. Your life must reflect righteousness if you want people to believe what you are preaching. If you are someone who has no self-control, or someone who spreads gossip by mouth or by social media, or someone who just does not live separated from the world then do not expect people to listen to you.

Listen, if we live separated lives and we walk in obedience to God then our character becomes a "sign" to the lost people around us and they are more likely to listen to what we have to say. That means we must be honest in all of our dealings, we must refrain from slander and gossip, we must use our words to glorify our God and the list goes on and on. But if a believe walks contrary to this then their testimony is tarnished, and your friends and family will not listen.

When God opens a door to share the Gospel people will listen if we are people of character.

1 Samuel 18:5, 12-16

⁵ *And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.*

¹² *And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.*

¹³ *Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.*

¹⁴ *And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.*

¹⁵ *Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.*

¹⁶ *But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.*

David exercised great wisdom and for that reason he was accepted, and ALL Israel and Judah loved him. He had an audience with them all.

Proverbs 10:9

⁹ *He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.*

Proverbs 16:7

⁷ When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Conclusion:

God has placed before us a wonderful opportunity that will only exist for a short while. It is the opportunity to be used in His plan of redemption. He has allowed us to be accompanied with a "sign" which affirms we are commissioned by God and our message is from God. The "sign" is our character. Let us walk in obedience, let us learn to be controlled by the Holy Spirit and not the flesh so that we might have an open door into the lives of those who we have contact with. Notice the closing words on character:

"The Greek word from which our word "character" originated signified a sharp-pointed instrument or graving tool. Much of this first meaning is implied in the word as we use it, for is not character the means by which each of us makes his impression on the world? To be sure, the instrument itself is not a finished product, is a mere tool; but, like many a fine instrument, character improves with use. Our actions and reactions temper the blade and make the edge powerful or impotent. Each must forge his own character, each must be responsible for keeping it in condition, each must be responsible for its results."