

"The Call of Moses"

Part 4

Exodus 3-4

Introduction: For the past several weeks we have been looking at the meeting between God and Moses when God met him at the burning bush. It was at that meeting that God made the announcement that He was aware of what Israel was going through and that He had come down to deliver them to the land of Canaan. God also announced to Moses that He was going to use him to be the emancipator of Israel. We would expect Moses to be over joyed at the thought of being used by God for this service but instead we find him offering several 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 gave to him assurance that he would not be alone but God Himself would be with him.

2. The Second Objection.

Notice Exodus 3:13

Moses looked ahead and he anticipated that the elders of Israel would question his authority. 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?" Moses was shrinking at the thought of having his authority questioned.

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 receiving his authority from the transcendent, self-sustaining Creator of the Universe.

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. We have all thought about sharing the Gospel with a certain person and then in our mind we reasoned that they would never listen to what the Bible says.

a. God's Response.

Notice Exodus 4:2-9

God gave Moses supernatural signs to affirm his message.

Application:

We cannot turn water to blood, we cannot turn sticks into snakes, and we cannot heal a leper, but we do have two signs that follow us and are the affirmation that our message is authentic. We focused upon one of these as we closed last week. As we move on tonight, I want us to look briefly at the importance of the other sign.

1. The character of the believer.

We looked at this "sign" last week. 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.

2. The fruit of the ministry.

Last week we touched on this briefly. A servant of the Lord who has truly been called will have the fruit their ministry as a "sign". We see this in what Paul wrote to the saints at Corinth.

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:*

For all of us there should be the "sign" of spiritual fruit which follows with us that affirms our message. The fruit that I am speaking of is the Fruit of the Spirit.

John 15:1, 4-5

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

⁴ *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

⁵ *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

We who are the branches cannot produce spiritual fruit in our lives. For a believer to bear fruit we must walk in fellowship with our Lord and then the fruit is produced by the Spirit. That is why it is called the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

²³ *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

This fruit of the Spirit is another "sign" that shows our message and us to be authentic.

So, we do not possess the sign gifts as the Apostles did, but we do have two "sign" that are used by God to affirm our message to a lost and dying world. The "signs" are our character and the fruit of the Spirit. These two "signs" set us apart from the rest of the world. This now brings us back to Moses' next objection.

3. The Fourth Objection.

Notice Exodus 4:10

Now Moses objects because he claims to have a heavy mouth and a heavy tongue. What he is saying here is that he is not very good at public speaking. He had a difficult time putting his thoughts into words. It is interesting here that God does not correct Moses' evaluation of himself. This tells us that most likely Moses was not a fluent speaker. He probably did stumble with his words. He had the ability to learn the ways of the Egyptians, but he had a difficult time communicating what was in his mind.

Application:

All of us can sympathize with Moses here. There is nothing more frightening than the thought of standing before people and not being able to put your thoughts into words.

What we need to understand here is that these are the exact kind of people whom God chooses to use. He is not looking for people who are eloquent with their words and he is not searching for men who are fluent in their speech. He often chooses men who stumble with their words and, men who have heavy mouths and heavy tongues.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

God uses people whom the world sees as nobodies because it is in the nobody that He is glorified. God chooses men who are have heavy mouths and tongues so that people will listen to WHAT A MAN IS SAYING instead of listening to HOW A MAN SAYS IT.

Let us remember what the false teachers said about the Apostle Paul.

2 Corinthians 10:10

10 For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.

If the Apostle Paul were alive today most of the churches would not want him as a speaker because of his appearance and his speech. But just consider what God did with this man's life because he was willing to step out in faith and serve the Lord.

I point all of this out to help you to understand that God can use you also. You may not be fluent with your words, but God can still use you to witness for He will receive all the glory as you walk in obedience.

As a side note here let me remind you that it is Satan who longs to use those who are articulate and fluent with their words.

2 Peter 2:1-3

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

² *And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

³ *And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*

The word "feigned" means "fabricated or molded". The false teachers which Peter warned about have a way to fabricate their words to lead people away from the Truth. This is not to say that every fluent teacher is a false teacher and it is not to say that God does not use men who are articulate and fluent, He does use them. But the point we need to grasp is that God can use each of us.

A. God's response.

Notice Exodus 4:11-12

God gives an amazing promise here. God told Moses He had made every mouth, ear and eye. In other words, God knew how Moses spoke. He knew he had a heavy tongue and mouth for God made it. Then God tells him to go and God would give to him the words to speak and the ability to speak them.

Application:

Let us also know that God is with our mouths and tongues as we serve Him. It is by His Holy Spirit that He brings to our minds the words which we need to speak.

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

¹² *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*

¹³ *Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

In many situations the Holy Spirit will bring to mind that which needs to be said. This does not mean we do not prepare to talk with people. It certainly does not mean that a Pastor does not take the time to study the Word of God.

2 Timothy 2:15

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

As we read the Bible and we learn the Truth of God's Word the Holy Spirit will then bring to our mind certain verses and passages that will pertain to the situations which we face.

Let me show you the promise which God made to Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 1:4-9

4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

After the promise that God would be his mouth and He would give Moses the words to speak, Moses still refused to go.

Notice Exodus 4:13

Let me tell you what Moses is saying here. He is saying, "God, I am not going so find someone else."

Now let me tell you the problem which Moses had. It was not that he was a nobody, it was not that the elders would question his authority, it was not that they would not believe him, and it was not he was not fluent. The underlying problem with Moses was that he did not believe God.

For every objection which Moses raised God gave Him a promise, but Moses did not believe the promises.

Application:

God often brings us to situations in life that demand and require faith in the promises of God. Let me tell you what unbelief will do in those situations. **IT WILL PARALYZE YOU.** When God calls us to go and share the Gospel with a friend or a family member and we do

not believe that God will use our service then we become spiritually paralyzed. We don't do anything. We sit still and we allow our unbelief to shut our mouths and often what happens is that our loved one or friend dies in their sins and goes to hell.

Not only does unbelief paralyze us spiritually but it can also rob us of great blessings. Think of what Moses would have missed had he not eventually stepped out to serve God by faith. So, it is also true of us. There are blessings that await us as we walk by faith in the promises of God.

Conclusion:

Next week we are going to look in greater detail of the consequences of unbelief. As we close out tonight allow me to step into your life for a moment. Has God been calling you to share the Gospel with someone or to speak close to you about sin in their life? Have you made the same excuses that Moses made? If so then the problem is unbelief. Let us remember that God has given us two signs that will follow us:

1. Spiritual fruit
2. Our character

Let us take these and walk by faith in God's promises.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.