

MOSES, PART III
MOSES' EXCUSES

Exodus 3-4

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God Chose

God Blessed

I Obeyed

God Gave Success

-Alan

Moses was a man with many excuses. He had every reason why he wouldn't be able to rise up to the desperate need of his time and to stand in for the welfare of his people.

What is an excuse? It is a lie with an appearance of genuineness and legitimate sounding reasons why you can't meet an obligation, a responsibility or an opportunity because it might inconvenience you! It is an awareness of a cause, a challenge, a call to action in a struggle for right to prevail. It is to know you ought to do something but you convince yourself why you can't be part of the answer or do anything about it.

God's Purpose For Our Life Isn't Optional – Moses Makes Excuses (3,4)

God had said unto Moses, 3:9 "Now therefore behold the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me; and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them (this is the cause, the crisis). ¹⁰ Come now therefore and I will send you unto

Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people, the children of Israel out of Egypt.”
(This is a personal call to action.)

God is saying, “Moses, you’re my man; you’re my answer to the survival of these people. Come now therefore and I will send you to deliver them.”

Moses should have said, “Here I am, send me”, but instead he tried to argue his way out of it.

He couldn’t tell God directly, No! It would be an offense to God. Moses does everything he can to talk his way out of the ministry.

40 years earlier Moses was really into himself. He was up for the job. He was like a horse stampeding ahead and ready to take on the world for God. Not anymore. He remembered the last time he did all that and he ended up disgraced and running for his life. Moses had failed in the past and was eaten up with self-incrimination and a morbid opinion of himself. He is now just a shepherd in a wasted desert.

Moses has serious issues with fear; he has a confidence problem!

Moses’ excuses:

Excuse #1: I am a nobody! (3:11-12)

“¹¹ And Moses said unto God, Who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?”

Moses is saying, “I am just an ordinary, common guy; I could never do that.”

Moses had been so beaten down by his own opinion of himself and negative thoughts, he had convinced himself that he could never really do much of anything. He is just a shepherd; he doesn’t belong in front of people as a prominent and important leader. He’s not smart enough; he doesn’t have the capabilities that other people have.

What is behind all this is fear: fear of having failed in the past and failing again, making a fool of himself. He is afraid of putting himself out there, not being able to be good enough and fall flat on his face. Fear and contempt for himself, struggling with his own doubts and issues of being willing to trust in God have seized control of his mind.

This man who was once training to be a great leader in Egypt, a soldier, a skilled communicator, mighty in words and deeds had lost all courage and confidence to rise up to a challenge greater than himself. There is no end to the loss of worth in a self-defeated man and a wasted life!

God knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows what we can do and not do. God can choose to work through whom He wants to, and it is in the place God has put us that we will be at our best.

God's response to Moses' excuse was, "I will be with you." (v. 12)

Success in the life of a human being is in the hand of God. We don't just decide one day, "O, I am going to do this, or I am not going to do that". God sends us on a divine mission in His redemptive purposes for the expansion of His kingdom.

Faith and courage is found in a very simple and quiet trust in the promise: God will be with us.

An awareness of the presence of God and the truth of this promise actually being seen is in the world around us. Our gifts and calling find us; we don't find them. There is a constant call of God upon us to service and a reaffirmation of our calling in others who see it in us.

We really are walking miracles used of God outside of ourselves by the people who come to God through us! God said, "I will be with you."

Excuse #2: "I don't know your name". (vs. 13-22)

¹³ And Moses said unto God, 'Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, the God of your fathers has sent me unto you; and they shall say unto me, What is His name? What shall I say unto them?'

Moses and the ancients of Israel had obviously always known the name of God, Yahweh. Moses wasn't asking for that answer. He was asking the question his people would ask him, "What can God do for us? Why should we trust Him? How can we know He is able to do what we trust Him for?"

Moses needed some legitimate answers to give if people were going to follow him. Moses himself needs answers to his own questions he has to ask of God. He's wondering what God can do in his own life, and is God able to do it?

We all have questions which need to be answered. Who is God? Can He be trusted? What makes God any different from any other gods and religions? Can the Scriptures be trusted? Are they inerrant and reliable?

Until Moses was convinced, how could he convince others? Why would he even want to be involved apart from a proven and hard-core answer to, What is the truth?

If we look hard enough and do our research, God will give us solid answers.

God answers Moses, "¹⁴ I AM THAT I AM and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, 'I am hath sent me unto you'. ¹⁵ And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, the Lord (Yahweh) God (Eloheim) of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is My name forever, and this is my memorial unto all generations."

"I AM", means To Be. God is; His existence is in Himself. He is an eternal, infinite, personal being; the true and living God from whom all things created have their sole existence in Him alone! This is His name, I AM!

What has the God, the Living God of all His creation, Who has existed in eternity, been able to do for those who would trust in Him? What do we see in all living things? What do we see when we search the universe, when we look at the beautiful world around us, or look under a microscope? "God is", is the truth that is written across the sky; written into our hearts and consciences. He has more than enough power, more than enough love, more than enough grace to be there with us, to see us through. Is there anything too great for the Lord? God is incomprehensible, infinite, all wise, all knowing, all powerful, abundant in truth, love, grace and mercy. A God of righteousness, justice and judgment, who will forgive the repentant sinner, but in no-wise will acquit the guilty until righteousness floods the earth and man is dwelling in harmony with God and each other.

You would think after that kind of answer Moses would get it? No, he can't get himself to believe in it enough to where he is willing to serve Him. Pretty stubborn!

Excuse #3: “The Elders Won’t Believe Me” (vs. 4:1-9)

4 ¹ And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee.”

Moses is going to claim that he is giving unto the people the Word of God. He is going to have to put his full trust and confidence in the Word of God himself before he is ready in any way to convince others. Moses has to believe in it. Can the Word of God be trusted? In all the power of Egypt, a great and formidable empire, is God able to overcome the Egyptian might and can the Word of God have the last say? Moses doesn’t believe that it can. It’s not that the people won’t believe in it, but Moses doesn’t really believe in it enough. This is his real excuse behind his pretense of putting the blame on the people.

God is going to declare war on Pharaoh, and Moses is to lead the way in the battle for authority. What could be more terrifying? What if he loses? Moses is being called upon by God to risk everything, even his own life. He’s happy in the desert with his family, at least content. He has no desire to get involved, especially at this level. We know the drama and the long conflict that is going to go on between Pharaoh’s power and God’s. The ten plagues against Egypt will be played out, with Moses commanding Pharaoh, “Let my people go”. What a mission. What intensity and fear.

When the church is winning the battle against evil in the world and standing in the Gospel of Christ is risk-free, all kinds of people will jump in there and take advantage. It is when world opinion of Christianity changes and times are dangerous that few are willing to stand up to the enemy with the truth.

Being on the level, and holding the line in the truth war, putting the Gospel of Christ front and center, is very unpopular with both the world and the sophisticated church of today. If we are going to be successful and attract the masses, we are going to have to accommodate a self-serving people with “a Gospel”, emasculated of its critical contents of its power unto salvation. We must not allow ourselves to go there. We must earnestly contend for the faith, but it’s going to cost us members and public opinion!

By faith, and a lot of courage, God is calling upon us today to believe in the ultimate triumph of the Scriptures and to not doubt the integrity of His Word! God said, My Word

will not return void ...but it will accomplish the ends that I have set for it (Isaiah 55:11). We have to believe when we preach it that in the final countdown, it will end in success. Satan, in the beginning said, “Did God say”, and doubt and a mistrust in the Scriptures, questioning their perfect integrity, has led us to where we are today, in a ruined world with the church having lost all respect.

We must stop making excuses in our own unbelief; stop apologizing for the Word of God; get our faith together and be willing to answer the call. “Preach the Word...” I Tim. 4:2

Moses was given three signs to prove the Word of God to himself and to the people:

- The rod in the hand of Moses
- The hand of Moses from leprosy to healing in a moment
- The water from the river turned to blood on the dry land

We have a history of the world, endless events of fulfilled prophecy and the future moving perfectly in the direction of the Word of God.

We have the first coming of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, perfect life, His miracles, death on the cross and an empty tomb with a promise, “I will come again.”

Excuse #4: “I can’t speak” (4:10-11)

“¹⁰ And Moses said unto the Lord, O’ my Lord I am not eloquent... I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.” And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man’s mouth... have not I the Lord? ¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.”

Most of us don’t think we can speak very well. The truth is, very few of us who are called want to get up in front of people, nor do we think we are very adequate for the job. It is interesting to me the kind of people God calls to the ministry and the lack of skills the world would call necessary to be a great communicator. A lot of us, if not most of us, who are in the ministry never sought the job nor would have ever done it if we had not been thoroughly convinced God had called us. We were drafted against our own wishes. Most of us fought it before we gave in to the Lord’s will.

Excuse #5: Somebody Else Could Do It Better (vs. 4:13-17)

“¹³ and he said, O my LORD, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.”

“Get somebody else.” Wrong answer to God. His calling and plan for our life is not ever optional.

Nobody can do a better job than you where God has personally placed you. Others may be far more gifted than you, but it’s about what God has destined you to do that will make you a success.