

God's Plan And My Plan

3. How God had equipped us for our assignment

Exodus 3:1-4:17

Introduction:

When God appeared to Moses at the burning bush. He called him to the task of leading the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage. In response, Moses gave excuses as to why he did not think he was the man for the job.

God's people today have received a special calling from God. Not to go to a distant country to deliver those in physical bondage, but to go into the world to deliver those in the bondage of sin (**Mk. 16:15; 1 Pet. 2:9-10**).

But instead of using our talents to build up God's people, and to share God's love with other, too often, we behave just like Moses, making the very same excuses!

I. "WHO AM I?"

A. Ex. 3:11

1. Though Moses had been prince in Egypt, now he is only an old shepherd
 - a. Others have asked the same question: Jeremiah (**Jer. 1:6**), King Saul (**1 Sam. 9:21**), Gideon (**Jud. 1:6:15**)
 - b. **ILLUSTRATION:** "I'd rather be a could-be if I cannot be an are; because a could-be is a maybe who is reaching for a star. I'd rather be a has-been than a might-have-been, by far; for a might have-been has never been, but a has was once an are." (Milton Berle)
2. God's response was quick, & should have been enough – **Ex. 3:12 (Rom. 8:31;** "If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?")

B. SOME USE THIS SAME EXCUSE TODAY

1. Trying to excuse ourselves by believing that we are insufficient for the task
 - a. It is true that by ourselves that we are insufficient – **2 Cor. 3:5-6**
 - b. Look what He did with the apostles! – **Acts 4:13**)
 - c. **ILLUSTRATION:** Back in 1959 Charlton Heston starred in Movie Classic called "Ben Hur". One of the most powerful parts of the movie was a climatic chariot race that required 5 weeks of filming, 15,000 extras, and 18 chariots. Heston was a committed actor who practiced for weeks learning to drive his chariot. But after weeks of practice he pulled the STUNT coordinator aside and said: "I can drive the chariot... but I'm not sure I can win." The stunt coordinator smiled at him and said "Chuck, you just make sure you stay in the chariot. I'll make sure you win the race."
2. Through Jesus, God has provided us the same assurance that was given to Moses – **Mt. 28:20**

II. "WHAT SHALL I SAY?"

A. Ex. 3:13

1. Moses knew that people would ask questions:
 - a. "Who is this God who sent you to us?" "Why are we to leave this country we have come to consider our home for over 400 years?" "What are God's intentions toward us?"
 - b. Manoah, Samson's father asked the angel a similar question – **Jud. 1:13:18**
2. Again, God's response was quick; "Thus you shall say..." – **Ex. 3:14-15**

B. A SIMILAR EXCUSE IS SOMETIMES GIVEN TODAY

1. We try to excuse ourselves by saying that our knowledge is inadequate
2. But God has told us what to say – **Mk. 16:15-16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; 2:2**
 - a. We are sent by 'the first and the last' (**Is. 44:6**), 'who is, and who was and who is to come' (**Rev. 1.8**)
 - b. We have a tendency to seek out novelty. But God is the same – always!

III. "SUPPOSE THEY WILL NOT BELIEVE ME?"

A. **Ex. 4:1**

1. Now that he knows what to say, he balks at the idea that the people may not listen
 - a. People will believe, king will be hardened, Egyptians will be plagued, and deliverance will happen!
 - b. Those who opposed Jeremiah insisted he was not sent by God – **Jer. 43:2** Azariah the son of Hoshaiah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, "You are telling a lie! The LORD our God has not sent you"
2. God responds by equipping him with several convincing proofs.
 - a. Moses himself must firstly be convinced of God's power
 - 1) The ROD – **Ex. 4:2-5**; His OWN HAND into leprosy – **Ex. 4:6-8**; WATER to blood – **Ex. 4:9**
 - b. They are then to be used to convince others of God's power in Moses.
 - 1) Unless Moses is convinced, he will not convince others!

B. SOME HESITATE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL FOR THE SAME REASON

1. The fear of failure keeps us from trying
 - a. Others have argued that we are not speaking the word of God to them.
2. God has given us the evidences necessary to convince the honest and sincere person.
 - a. The Word of God, able to produce faith – **Rom. 10:17; Jn. 20:30-31**

IV. "I AM SLOW OF SPEECH AND SLOW OF TONGUE"

A. **Ex.4:10**

1. Moses claims that he is not an eloquent speaker
2. God already knows the inability of those He calls – **Ex. 4:11**
 - a. But He is able to make up for anyone's shortcomings – **Ex. 4:12, 14-16**

B. SOME CHRISTIANS TRY TO USE THIS EXCUSE AS WELL

1. But it did not stop the apostle Paul – **1 Cor. 2:1, 3-4**
 - a. Paul was afraid, but his fears did not stop him!
2. We can make use of those who can speak by arranging Bible studies (as did Cornelius – **Act.10:24,33**)

V. "PLEASE SEND SOMEONE ELSE" **Ex. 4:13 (ESV)**

A. MOSES SIMPLY DID NOT WANT TO GO!

1. He had tried once to help his neighbours and friends, but had been rejected
2. He had made a life for himself now, and was relatively comfortable, and didn't want to be disturbed!
3. He had used his talents in areas that suited his ends, and not God's

4. God's impatience with Moses becomes evident – **Ex. 4:14a**

B. THE SAME CAN BE TRUE WITH US TODAY!

1. If we have been making excuses, we need to repent!

2. Has God given me the talent to be an encourager? Encourage! – **Rom. 12:6-8**

Conclusion:

With Moses, we know the rest of the story: He answered the call, and went to Egypt and with the help of God, he delivered the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage.

But what about us? What will be the rest of our story? Shall we heed the call to preach the gospel to the lost? Or shall we make excuses and one day suffer God's anger?