

THE EXCUSES OF MOSES

Exodus 4:10-14

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- 1. When God appeared to Moses at the burning bush He called him to the task of leading the children of Israel out of Egypt - **Exo. 3-4**
- 2. In response, Moses gave excuses as to why he did not think he was the man for the job

THE EXCUSES OF MOSES

- 2. As God's people today, we have received a special calling to go into the world to deliver those in the bondage of sin - **Mark 16:15; 1 Pet 2:9**
- 3. Too often, though, we behave just like Moses, making the very same excuses!

I. "WHO AM I?"

- A. FOUND IN **EXO 3:11 ...**
- 1. Moses was once a member of Pharaoh's household. - **Exo 2:11-11**
- a. But now he was a lowly shepherd - **Exo 3:1**
- b. 40 years had passed since he had been in Egypt - **Acts 7:30**
- c. He was an 80 year old man. - **Exo 7:7 (Acts 7:23,30)**

I. "WHO AM I?"

- 2. God's response was quick, and should have been adequate ...
- a. "I will certainly be with you ..." - **Exo 3:12**
- b. God promised to be with Moses, and this alone should have been sufficient- cf. **Rom 8:31**

I. "WHO AM I?"

- 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 - **John 15:4-5**
- b. But God can make us sufficient - **2 Cor 3:5-6**
- c. Look what He did with the apostles - **Acts 4:13**

I. "WHO AM I?"

- 2. Through Jesus, God has provided us the same assurance given Moses - cf. **Matt 28:20**
- 3. With His help, we can accomplish anything He wants us to do! - **Phil 4:13**

II. "WHAT SHALL I SAY?"

- A. FOUND IN **EXO 3:13** ...
- 1. Moses knew that should he go to the children of Israel, there were bound to be questions.
- 2. Again, God's response was quick ...
- a. "Thus you shall say ..." - **Exo 3:14-15**
- b. God tells Moses what he needs to say in response to their questions

II. "WHAT SHALL I SAY?"

- 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 ...
- a. It is really quite simple - cf. **Mark 16:15-16**
- b. How simple? - cf. **1 Cor 15:1-4; 2:2**

III. "SUPPOSE THEY WILL NOT BELIEVE ME?"

- A. FOUND IN **EXO 4:1...**
- 1. Now that he knows what to say, he fears the people may not listen
- 2. God responds by equipping him with several proofs...
- a. The ROD, which turns into a serpent - **Exo 4:2-5**
- b. His OWN HAND, which turns into leprosy - **Exo 4:6-8**

III. "SUPPOSE THEY WILL NOT BELIEVE ME?"

- B. SOME HESITATE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL FOR THE SAME REASON ...
- 1. The fear of failure keeps them from trying
- 2. But God has given us the evidences necessary to convince the honest and sincere person ...
- - The Word of God, able to produce faith – **Luke 8:11,15; Rom 10:17; John 20:30-31** (internal evidences: prophecies fulfilled, harmony of the Scriptures, etc.)

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

- A. FOUND IN **EXO 4:10** ...
- 1. Moses claims that he is not an eloquent speaker
- 2. God is not moved by this objection ...
- a. He already knows the inability of those He calls – **Exo 4:11**

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

- b. But He is able to make up for anyone's shortcomings
- 1) Again, promising to be with Moses - **Exo 4:12**
- 2) He had even arranged for Aaron to be Moses' mouthpiece - **Exo 4:14-16** (who was sent earlier so as to arrive about this time - cf. **Exo 4:27**)

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

- **B. SOME CHRISTIANS TRY TO USE THIS EXCUSE AS WELL ...**
- 1. But it did not stop the apostle Paul - cf. **1 Cor 2:1-4**
- 2. At the very least, we can make use of those who can speak by arranging studies for them with others (as did Cornelius - **Acts 10:24, 33**)

V. "PLEASE SEND ... WHOMEVER ELSE YOU MAY SEND"

- **A. MOSES SIMPLY DID NOT WANT TO GO!** - **Exo 4:13**
- 1. The previous excuses were simply an attempt to hide this fact!
- 2. Now that all his excuses are answered, God's impatience with Moses becomes evident
- a. His anger was kindled against Moses - **Exo 4:14-17**, with an emphasis on the word "shall" to appreciate the anger of the Lord

V. "PLEASE SEND ... WHOMEVER ELSE YOU MAY SEND"

- **B. THE SAME IS TRUE WITH US TODAY!**
- 1. Any and every excuse we could offer is not acceptable!
- 2. We really would rather that God use someone else!
- 3. We really don't want to do what God has called us to do!

CONCLUSION

- 1. With Moses, we know the rest of the story ...
 - a. He answered the call, and went to Egypt
 - b. With the help of God, he delivered the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage
- 2. But what about us? What will be the rest of our story?
 - a. Shall we heed the call to preach the gospel to the lost?
 - b. Or shall we make excuses and one day suffer the wrath of God?