

The Excuses of Moses

Exodus 3:1-10

Introduction: Have you ever been asked to do a task that you did not want to do? Maybe you didn't think you were qualified for the job or perhaps you just didn't like the job. Whatever the reason, you find yourself making excuses to explain your reluctance to perform the task.

Moses was in this position when God asked him at the burning bush to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt (Ex. 3:1-10).

Notice is how similar Moses' excuses are to our own excuses when the Lord has called us to the work.

I. "Who am I" (Ex. 3:11)?

A. Moses' circumstances.

1. He is now an 80 year old man, past the average life span for his generation. He had a family and worked as a humble shepherd.

2. His personal circumstances lend to the conclusion he is too old and lacking the necessary experience.

B. God's response (Ex. 3:12).

1. God's promise to be with him should have been sufficient.

2. Paul later wrote, "If God is for us, who can be against us"

(Rom.8:31)?

C. Some of us use this same excuse.

1. We excuse ourselves from the work believing we are insufficient for the task. Truly, we are all insufficient but God can take care of that (2 Cor. 3:5-6).

2. Look what God did with the uneducated and untrained men we call the Apostles (Acts 4:13).

3. Christ has provided the same assurance to this age in the great commission (Matt. 28:20).

II. "What shall I say to them" (Ex. 3:13)?

A. Moses knew there would be questions like, "Who is this God who sent you?" Or, "Why should we leave this country we have called home for the last 400 years?" Moses is expressing his inadequacy to answer.

B. God responds (Ex. 3:14-15).

C. We use a similar excuse.

1. We say our knowledge in God's word is not adequate.

2. Yet, Christ has already given us what to say (Mark 16:15-16).

3. All we need to know is already provided (1 Cor. 2:2).

III. "Suppose they will not believe me" (Ex. 4:1)?

A. Now that Moses knows what to say, he balks at the idea that people will not listen. He is right, they won't listen. But what should he know about God? God can produce plenty of evidence.

B. God responds (Ex. 4:2-9).

1. God can turn a rod to a serpent in order to produce belief.
2. God can cause leprosy and He can cleanse leprosy unto faith.
3. If those sign aren't enough, God can always turn water to blood.

C. Yet, some of us fail to share the gospel by using the same excuse.

1. The fear of rejection keeps many of us from trying.
2. Though Christ has already provided ample proof to convince people to believe (John 20:30-31).

IV. "I am slow of speech and slow of tongue" (Ex. 4:10).

A. Moses claims that he is not a good speaker.

B. God was not impressed with this excuse (Ex. 4:11-12).

1. Who made his mouth? Cannot God overcome such small matters when it comes to the most important of subjects?
2. Again, God promises to be with Moses.

C. We too, need not make this excuse as God uses many people with inadequate voices to proclaim His gospel; Paul being the best example (1 Cor. 2:1-4).

V. "Please send ... whomever else you may send" (Ex. 4:13).

A. "Send someone else Lord." Moses simply does not want the responsibility. The previous excuses were just a smokescreen to hide the real reason Moses didn't want the job.

B. Now God is angry (Ex. 4:14-17 [emphasis "shall"]).

1. Notice God saying, "I can easily get someone else, but that doesn't alleviate your responsibilities."

2. God is now demanding unequivocal obedience. "You shall ..."

C. But how many of us really don't want the responsibility either?

1. Just like Moses, we will give others every excuse in the book why we can't do the Lord's work. Every excuse we offer is just smokescreens for our real reason. Our real reason is we just don't want to do it.

2. "Use someone else Lord. Better yet, use the preacher Lord, we pay him." Believe me; the Lord will use the preacher. But do we really think that God is not angry with us if we shirk our responsibilities?

3. The truth is, we are up to the task (Phil. 4: 13).

Conclusion: If we have been making excuses not to do the Lord's work, we need to repent. Hopefully, we will follow Moses' example as he quit making excuses and did as the Lord commanded. He went to Egypt and he delivered the children of Israel from bondage.

What about us? Will we heed the call to preach and teach God's word to the lost? Or shall we make excuses why we don't want to do the Lord's work and suffer God's wrath in the day to come. Only time will tell.