



October 2011

Dear Friend of Light of the Word,

*“But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh,
and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?’”*
Exodus 3:11

Are you being called to do a work for God but you find yourself making excuses? Is there someone in your life who is in need of your love and care and you are making excuses for why you cannot be there for them? Does your calling ask of you much more than you think you can handle?

Moses’ call by God brought one excuse upon another as to why he could not possibly do what God had called him to do! And we are not any different. God tells us to do something and we respond with a litany of excuses.

Why do you hesitate to follow God’s direction?

Maybe you’re thinking that you don’t have what it takes—that you are a nobody. Or perhaps you’re thinking that you don’t have anything worthwhile to share with people. Maybe you’re thinking that you don’t have the position or standing to do God’s work. Maybe you’re afraid that you are not capable of following God’s purpose for your life. Or, like too many people in our world, you prefer to live in your comfort zone—you’re content with mediocrity and “the norm.” If any or all of these fit you, then consider how they relate to Moses’ excuses.

I am nobody

“But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?’” (Exodus 3:11)

At this point, Moses has no ministry—his only flock are sheep; he’s a nobody. He’s likely thinking, “God, I’m the one who messed everything up. I’m the one who killed one Egyptian when You wanted to bury the whole army and now You want to use me? I used to be somebody, but now I’m nobody. I used to dress really nice, but now I am in rags. I used to talk to people, but now I’m talking to lambs. I’m not Your guy.” It is almost as if God says, “Listen, it’s not who you are, it’s Who I Am. And, when you were somebody, I couldn’t use you. I had to make you a nobody. And now that you’re a nobody I can make you a somebody.” The Lord needs a humble heart—and if you can give Him that, He will be the somebody working through you!

I have no message

“Then Moses said to God, ‘Indeed,, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you; and they say to me, What is His name? What shall I say to them?’” (Exodus 3:13)

In other words, “God, I have nothing to say.” It seems in this day and age that everyone has a “message” they are pushing! So, if you have no message, that’s great because God’s going to put His message in your heart! Too many people have their own agenda. They push themselves and tell people how great they are and what they can do. But people don’t need to hear that. What they need to hear is hope. And there is hope for this country and hope for your life and hope for your children in God’s message of the Gospel.

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I have no authority

“Then Moses answered and said, ‘But, suppose, they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, ‘The Lord has not appeared to you’” (Exodus 4:1).

Moses is now realizing he is in trouble. He’s spent the last 40 years in the desert taking care of flocks of sheep—he no longer wields the power that he once had living as the royal son to Pharaoh’s daughter. But that is the point of the desert years for Moses—God wanted him to go in the Lord’s authority not in his own.

We don’t need to go around trying to be God. God uses common people in life and makes them instruments for the glory of God. Look at who Jesus picked as His disciples to spread the Gospel message to the world—they were ordinary people to say the least! God doesn’t need much. He just needs to know what is in your hand. And sometimes we say, “God, I have nothing.” And God says, “What’s in your hand?” “Well, nothing.” “Good, I’ll put something there.” Or all of a sudden, “God, all I have is this heart.” “Good, I’ll take that heart. I’ll take whatever you have. And if you give it to Me, it will become a symbol of absolute strength.” Just as you and I, Moses needed to fulfill God’s call with His authority.

I have no skills

“Then Moses said to the Lord, ‘O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since you have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.’” (Exodus 4:10).

Stephen, as he was prophesying in Acts 7, says of Moses, “He was mighty in deed and in word.” When Moses spoke, people listened. There was no one who would challenge this man’s authority or his speech. He was brilliant in what he had to do. And now at the end of forty years in the desert, he had lost all confidence and is now beginning to tell God, “I just don’t think I have it. I don’t think I can do it. I’m not gifted.” And finally, God said, “Listen, Moses, who made your mouth, who made the deaf, who made the blind, who made the lame?” In other words, it’s not about what you can do or can’t do, it’s about God wanting to use you to fulfill His purposes in the world. What the Lord needs is you—your heart, your humility, and your willingness to serve Him. The Lord will always give you the ability to do His will!

I’m content

“But he said, ‘O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send.’” (Exodus 4:13).

In other words, “You know, I appreciate all You’re doing, but I like the wilderness—I like not getting involved. I’m comfortable right where I am Lord.” The Bible tells us that “the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses...” (Exodus 4:14). So, God basically said to Moses, “Fine, take Aaron.” When you settle for God’s second best, it will cost you. Aaron is the one who made the golden calf. Aaron is the one who led the people into idolatry. Instead of Moses saying, “Yes, God, I’m ready,” he fights with God. And that’s what we do; we fight with God. We don’t want to read our Bibles. We don’t want to pray. But God is saying, “I want to use you.”

What excuse are you giving for not following God’s will for your life?

In Christ,



Pastor Steve