

# Sermon Notes – October 13, 2024

## Review

- ⇒ Exodus is a continuation of the story that began in Genesis. Genesis lays the foundation for the people and the storyline that takes place in Exodus.
- ⇒ Our theme is “No Longer Slaves,” a theme that spans the entire Bible. The Bible is an unfolding story of redemption, atonement, deliverance, and glory. God Himself is the main hero and the ultimate Reward.
- ⇒ Last week in **Exodus 3** we saw the Redeemer revealed. We saw that though the need is great and Moses is insufficient for the task, redemption is in the hands of the great “I Am” who is more than able to save his people and all who call on his name.

## Today’s Text: READ 4:1-17

Moses had five questions about God’s redemptive plan in chapters 3 and 4. The first two we saw last week: “Who am I?” and “Who are you?” Today we will look at the other three questions that Moses asks God. Instead of reassuring Moses that he (Moses) is able, God shows Moses that God is able and gives Moses reason to trust him.

## What if they will not believe me? (1-9)

- ⇒ Moses was commanded to gather the elders of Israel together (3:16) and deliver God’s message of salvation to them. He was assured (3:18) that they would listen to him. Yet Moses still doubted that they would truly believe him.
- ⇒ God graciously gives people \_\_\_\_\_ evidence than is needed to trust in him. In this case, God gave Moses not one, but three signs of his power:
  - **Staff to snake:** this sign challenged the Cobra, which represented a god of Egypt and was the symbol of power of the Pharaoh. God was proclaiming *his* power over Pharaoh.
  - **Hand becomes leprous:** Leprosy was a disease that was prevalent in Egypt and \_\_\_\_\_. The God of Moses had the power over sickness and disease like no other god.

- **Water from Nile turned to blood:** The Egyptians worshiped the Nile which was the lifeline of Egypt, providing water and fertilizing the Nile delta. God was showing that life is in him, not the god of the Nile.

⇒ These three signs not only were amazing in and of themselves, but they demonstrated that God is the all-powerful ruler over all.

### I am not eloquent. I am slow of speech and of tongue (10-12)

⇒ Did Moses have a speech impediment? Or did he just struggle to express his thoughts? We don't know! He certainly had no problem talking to the Holy God, but he thought he would have a problem talking to Israel and Pharaoh.

⇒ God was not \_\_\_\_\_ by Moses' slowness of speech. In fact, God made him that way! Moses was formed by God to bring him glory – and so were you!

⇒ We often talk about God using our abilities for his glory, but how often do we talk about him using our \_\_\_\_\_ for his glory? Do we boast more in our strength or our weakness? (see 2 Corinthians 12)

### Will you please send someone else? (13-17)

⇒ Finally, Moses cuts to the chase. He does not want to go to Egypt!

⇒ God's righteous anger is kindled when his children hear his call and \_\_\_\_\_ to obey him. Yet his mercy overcomes our disobedience, as he provides for our weakness and leads us to do his will (anyway). Aaron was God's provision for Moses, a companion to strengthen this doubting leader.

### Responding in faith and obedience

⇒ God uses \_\_\_\_\_ vessels as his messengers of redemption. We are all "jars of clay" (2 Cor. 4).

⇒ God did not choose Moses because of his strength, but showed his power in Moses' weakness. Do you have weaknesses that you use as an excuse before God? Can *his* strength overcome *your* weakness?

⇒ Following God's call is not optional. Despite your own sin and inadequacy, he is not done with you. He will pursue your heart relentlessly until you give your heart to him. He will break you. He will remove every excuse that comes from your lips. He will mercifully provide more than what you need to do what he calls you to do.

⇒ How will *you* answer God today. Will you say "Here I am, send someone else?" or will you say "Here I am, send me!"

# Community Group Notes

## Getting Started

Have you ever been pressured into taking on an assignment that required a skill you knew you didn't have? How did it turn out? Was it a big disaster? Something you look back on today with embarrassment? Or did you discover skills you didn't think you had? Either way, did you grow as a person?

## Looking Back and Taking it Home (Review)

1. Read or scan Exodus 3. Choose one verse from this chapter that you would like to commit to memory. No pressure to actually memorize it! Just share your choice with the group and explain why you chose that verse. Here are some possible criteria: (1) It summarizes the point of the chapter, (2) It addresses an important biblical issue, (3) It is convicting, (4) It is comforting.

Exodus 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Exodus 4:1-17. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

3. What do you think Moses means in Exodus 4:10 when he says, "I am slow of speech and of tongue"? Does he have an actual speech impediment? Or is it just that he's been in the wilderness a long time and his "Egyptian" is a little rusty? Or something else? Are there any hints in the text as to what he means?

4. If God had wanted to counter Moses' protest with a list of reasons why Moses was exactly the person for the job, what do you think God would have said? (Think back over Exodus 2-3 and Acts 7:17-34) Why do you think God didn't take this approach with Moses?

## Preparing for next week's sermon

5. Read Exodus 4:18-31 together as a group. Read *slowly* and mark the following words or phrases in some distinctive way. Hint: the importance of some of these words will not become obvious for another week or two. However, marking them now will save coming back to this chapter later!

**serve**

**I will harden his heart**

**sign(s) or miracles**

**believe(d)**

**firstborn son**

**let ... go**

6. In Exodus 4:18-31 there are 7 mini-scenes, each 1 to 3 verses in length. Jot down a few words about each scene to help organize the details in your mind. Be brief, but try to include the names of all the characters present in each scene.

v.18 Moses seeks permission from Jethro

v.19 \_\_\_\_\_

v.20 \_\_\_\_\_

v.21-23 \_\_\_\_\_

v.24-26 \_\_\_\_\_

v.27-28 \_\_\_\_\_

v.29-31 \_\_\_\_\_

7. There are several fathers mentioned in Exodus 4:18-31 that have firstborn sons. See how many such pairs you can identify. (See Exodus 2:22 and 18:3-4 for an additional hint.) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Exodus 4:24-26 is not an easy section to interpret! Some of the problems hinge on the vagueness of the pronouns. The words **he**, **his**, and **him** occur 5 times in these three verses. (The original Hebrew has **his feet** in v.25 instead of **Moses' feet** as translated by the ESV). For each of these 5 pronouns, discuss with your group all the possibilities as to whom they could refer. Which of the 5 pronouns have a clear subject? Which are the most problematic?

9. Look ahead to Exodus 12:21-23. Note that the word translated **touch** in v. 22 comes from the same Hebrew word translated **touched** in Exodus 4:25. Is there anything else about the two situations that are similar?

10. At this point in your study of Exodus 4:18-31, what burning questions do you have that you hope might be answered in the sermon this Sunday?

**Time to PRAY** (Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group & PRAY for them!



Worship Next Sunday: October 20, 2024

“An Unexpected Adversary AND a Surprising Rescuer”

(Exodus 4:18-31) Pastor Kevin Brubaker

Answer Key: • more • incurable • surprised • inabilities • refuse • imperfect •