



Truth: God LOVES you despite what you think of yourself.

Truth: In Christ, you already meet all of God's EXPECTATIONS.

Truth: God CHANGES you to be like him.

Truth: You are significant to God

You ARE:

Salt	You have spiritual influence
Ambassador	You have a message the world needs to hear
Image	You represent God's presence and authority
Light	You reveal God's glory and truth

What are some ways you have applied these truths in the past week?

Which truths are you struggling to apply the most and why?

What steps have you taken to embed these truths in your lives?

MOSES' CRISES OF SIGNIFICANCE

Moses left Egypt as a failure at age 40.

In an attempt to stand up for his people, Moses murdered an Egyptian and had to flee for his life in fear and shame.

Moses is 80 years old at this point in the story.

Moses has now lived in the wilderness for 40 years tending sheep.

He has had 40 years of embedding the lies about his worth and significance when God calls him to a task.

Exodus 3:7-10 (NIV)

The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey--the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."



If God told you to go into hostile territory, confront the world's current, most powerful king and demand that he let all his forced, slave labour leave and then you were to lead this approximately one million people through a wilderness to occupy another hostile territory, how would you respond?

EXCUSE 1

Exodus 3:11 (NIV)

But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

Excuse: I am insignificant

What lies was Moses embracing that would have prevented him from accomplishing significant things for God?

I'm a "nobody".

I have nothing to offer.

I'm a failure.

Success is dependent on my ability to perform

GOD'S RESPONSE

Exodus 3:12 (NIV)

And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

God's Response: I will be with you

Why was God's response so significant?

It is not who we are, but who God is that ultimately matters. It is God who makes us successful, not our own natural ability. Our success is already determined; we just need to do as God instructs.

EXCUSE 2

Exodus 4:1 (NIV)

Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The Lord did not appear to you?'"

Excuse: I will not be respected



What lies was Moses embracing?

I do not have the leadership skills required.
My past failures determine my future success.
No one will respect or listen to me. My worth is tied to the opinion of others.
I'm afraid of what others will think.
I will never amount to anything.
I am trapped in a low self image.
I have no influence.

GOD'S RESPONSE

Exodus 4:6-9 (NIV)

Then the Lord said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was leprous, like snow. ⁷ "Now put it back into your cloak," he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh. ⁸ Then the Lord said, "If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first miraculous sign, they may believe the second. ⁹ But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground."

God's Response: **"I" will be successful**

How does this passage give us comfort when God calls us to step out in faith?

We are to be faithful; God will take care of the results. He will bless us in everything he calls us to do.

EXCUSE 3

Exodus 4:10 (NIV)

Moses said to the Lord, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

Excuse: **I don't have the ability**

What lies was Moses embracing?

Everything rests on "my" ability to perform.
I do not have the ability to do what God told me to do.
I must meet certain standards to feel good about myself.
I cannot represent God well.



GOD’S RESPONSE

Exodus 4:11-12 (NIV)

The Lord said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? ¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

God’s Response: I will give you everything you need to be successful

Why is God’s response so convicting?

If God calls us to a task, he will give us everything we need to accomplish the task. Success is dependent on God’s ability, not ours. Every challenge we face, God has already provided a way around it or through it.

The name God gave to Moses to describe himself, “I AM”, indicates that God would be everything the Israelites needed him to be in every situation. There would be no challenge too great for I AM. There would be no enemy too strong, no need too great to meet. This was very important to understand if they were to trust God to lead them through the wilderness to a place unknown.

Exodus 4:13 (NIV)

But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it."

Moses was denying his God-given ability to be:

Salt	God’s <u>Influence</u>
Ambassador	God’s <u>Voice</u>
Image	God’s <u>Rule</u>
Light	God’s <u>Truth</u>

Have you ever experienced fear when convicted by God to do something? Share your experience.

Has past failure ever prevented you from serving God in later years?

Has the condemnation of others ever prevented you from doing something you thought you should do?



If you truly believe you are significant in God's eyes, how might that affect what you do and don't do?

In the end, Moses chose to obey God despite his feelings of inadequacy. God can be very convincing!

What role should feelings play with regard to our actions?

Feelings should never be the determiner of our actions. Our feelings are often based on lies and, as a result, can lead us astray. We need to make decisions based on truth and trust that the feelings will simply follow behind at their own pace. The more we experientially trust the truth, the more our feelings will come in line with our convictions.

The biggest emotional barrier we face is FEAR.

Why is fear so counter to the purposes and love of God?

What are some examples of ways fear has prevented you from representing Christ this past month?

What can you do to start to counter this lie of insignificance in your life?

Exodus 33:11 (NIV)

The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.

Why was God so determined that Moses be the one to go to Egypt to deliver the people?

- God prepared Moses through his whole life for the calling he was now giving him.
- God loved Moses and wanted to him to understand that despite his past failures, he was significant.
- God was not so much interested in what Moses did, as much as the relationship he knew it would develop between him and Moses.



What experiences did God give Moses through life that prepared him to lead the people to the Promised Land?

- 1) Moses was born an Israelite which would be necessary to be accepted as a leader of the Israelite people.
- 2) Moses was raised in Pharaoh's court which gave him an intrinsic working of the palace and mindset of the Egyptian rulers.
- 3) Moses worked in the wilderness for forty years learning skills needed to care for the sheep and survive in a desolate land. These skills would prove essential as he led the Israelites through the wilderness for another forty years.

Have you been frustrated by experiences in your past only to discover they more effectively prepared you for success in the future?

In what ways has your relationship with God grown when you've stepped out in faith?

How would the church be different if everyone was free from the lie of insignificance and understood they had an important role to play?