



EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 3:13-22

13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" **14** God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'" **15** God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. **16** Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, **17** and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.'" **18** And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.' **19** But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand.] **20** So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go. **21** And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty, **22** but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."

DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 3:13-22

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Has God ever asked you to do something difficult? Or maybe a pastor shared something from God's Word that convicted you and it stung? Regardless, often because of our past or present failures, circumstances, or what it would cost us, next steps can seem daunting, scary, and perhaps even impossible. Others around you may not even understand it, because by worldly standards it doesn't make sense.



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Let me personalize this for just a moment. I had been a CPA who worked in the corporate world for 16 years. My marriage had failed due to infidelity and many other factors. As I began to seek healing from the Lord, He revealed and exposed many areas of sin in my heart. So when the time came that the Lord asked me to leave a career and job that I knew in order to go into vocational ministry, it made no sense. I would be making a salary of about one-third of what I made. But more than that, I was unqualified, almost 40 years old, and a failure in many ways. I must have heard the Lord wrong. In His patience and kindness, he confirmed it in multiple ways and through multiple people. Does this story remind you of anyone else?

Moses was a murderer who fled for his life (Exodus 2:11-15). He went from royalty to a lowly shepherd overnight and was an outcast among his own people (Exodus 2:14; 3:1). So when the Lord called to Moses in an extraordinary way, through a burning bush, and told Moses He wanted to use him to deliver Israel (the very people who rejected him), Moses replied "Who am I...?" (Exodus 3:11). "What will people think?" (Exodus 3:13 paraphrased.) I can definitely identify with his response.

Perhaps the most amazing and moving words in this entire text is God's response to both Moses and us. "I AM WHO I AM (Exodus 3:14)." During the remainder of this chapter, God explains what He means. God is self-existent and eternal. He has always been. He is immutable or unchanging. He is the same God who was with Abraham and who is with us today. He keeps all His promises. He is sovereign. Nothing can thwart His plans. He is all-powerful (omnipotent) and all-knowing (omniscient). And He delivers people from bondage. The Greek and Hebrew words for "I am" mean "to be" or "to become". So not only is He all these characteristics, but He is also fully sufficient. He "becomes" everything we need. We see this most clearly in Jesus' words in the book of John as He identifies Himself as bread, light, salvation and the Good Shepherd, to name a few (John 6:35; 8:12, 24; 10:11). God Himself is our provision. When the Lord asks difficult things of us and our hearts are prone to cry out "Who am I?", God replies, "I AM". That's enough for me. How about you?

Questions:

1. What difficult thing is the Lord asking of you right now? Is He asking you to submit your health, finances, time, job? How about spending daily time with Him in His Word? Or is He asking you to entrust someone to Him?
2. Regarding your answer to the question above, what is one step you can take towards obedience? Share both your confession and next step with your Journey Group or other biblical community.



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3. Read the following verses and note where Jesus uses the words "I am" and what you learn about Him in each instance: John 6:35; 8:12, 23-24, 56-59; 10:7-18; 11:24-26; 14:6; 15:1-11. Spend time meditating on and worshipping the Lord for who He is.