



EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 4:1-17

1 Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The Lord did not appear to you.'" **2** The Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A staff." **3** And he said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. **4** But the Lord said to Moses, "Put out your hand and catch it by the tail"—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand— **5** "that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you." **6** Again, the Lord said to him, "Put your hand inside your cloak." And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. **7** Then God said, "Put your hand back inside your cloak." So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. **8** "If they will not believe you," God said, "or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign. **9** If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground." **10** But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." **11** Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? **12** Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." **13** But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." **14** Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. **15** You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. **16** He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. **17** And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs."



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DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 4:1-17

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Have you ever felt unworthy to do something God has called you to do? You trust God and know He has the perfect plan, but truly struggle to see yourself how Christ does? In my flesh, I struggle to see my worth in Christ. Throughout that struggle, I can totally relate and understand Moses' response in Exodus 3:11: "But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Maybe the struggle with past rejection or self-worth was in Moses. Yet God answered this question right back in Exodus 3:12 when He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

However, in the verses following, Moses' questions show more of an unbelief than sincere seeking. Moses was really questioning God. He had no confidence in the flesh, but he let that pour over into his lack of confidence in Christ. After his encounter with the burning bush, there should have been no place in his vocabulary for the word "but". God uses people in all stages of life to do His work, but somehow, we let our flesh take hold and question when we think the call is "too big" or "too uncomfortable".

God showed Moses time and time again of who He was. In one instance, God used Moses' staff to reveal His power by turning it into a snake and back again in Exodus 4:2-5. God used a simple shepherd's staff that Moses spent years using to tend to sheep. He showed Moses that his shepherding gift was never useless, and that God could do more than he ever imagined. Romans 11:36 states, "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen". There were several other signs God had graciously shown Moses (Exodus 4:6-9), but after all of them, Moses was still unwilling. God never got angry when Moses questioned Him (Exodus 3:11,13), disbelieved God's word (Exodus 4:1), or even when Moses claimed that he wasn't eloquent in speech (Exodus 4:10). But God was angry when Moses was unwilling. He was not just unable, but unwilling.

As believers, when we truly experience a new life in Christ, it is an understanding that this life is about Him not us. No matter what we struggle with in our flesh, our God is bigger and more powerful!! Taking ourselves out of the equation and putting Christ there is what makes all the difference. All of us have struggles just as Moses did. As a believer and follower of Christ, we are never promised we will not struggle, but it is how we respond to the struggle that matters. What a true gift, that we are not defined by our struggles because of the price He paid on the cross! We are called to do His work in a dark world, to truly stand out and live out the gospel!



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Questions:

1. Are you unwilling to do something the Lord is asking of you? What is it?
2. In reference to the above question, what is holding you back from obeying the Lord?
3. Have you ever written down everything the Lord has rescued you from? If not, do so and share with your Journey Group or other biblical community.