

## **EXODUS 4:1-17      ANYONE BUT ME, LORD !**

God speaks and that is that. He doesn't give a multiple choice arrangement. He does not ask our advice and we give Him counsel. He doesn't call in a committee to suggest viable options. God has a plan and it will be carried out. Even when people do not want to go along with His commands and even disobey Him, God when He so desires, will use these people as instruments. In God's calling, He has a plan; but He never expects you to carry out that plan. He will pull it off. He wants you to be the instrument of action. All He wants is that you give yourself as a tool for Him to use.

Moses is an illustration for all of us to see that the Lord wants to use us. But how often do God's people make excuses like Moses? Moses was an instrument God used, even though Moses balked at Him, on more than a few occasions. The great man of faith, Moses, after God had given some details of the plan, didn't get it. He asked, Who am I, that I should do this ? All Moses had to really do, was just be available. God continued to explain to him how this was going to be done but Moses kept making excuses. What am I going to say to them? God then told Moses His name was Yahweh, the very self-existent One. God then assured him that the leaders of Israel would listen to him and believe him. That should have done it, right? No. Moses continued to resist the Lord for He felt so inadequate and did not understand that it is God who does the work anyway.

Today we will look at three more objections by Moses. That means five times Moses resisted the Lord. Does that change God's plan? No. God does not change His mind but He will change us as He gets us willing to do His plan. Let's look at this true story of God getting His servant to trust and obey Him.

## **1.THEY WON'T BELIEVE ME**

## **V 1**

### **THE THIRD OBJECTION**

#### **A.WHAT IF ?**

After God's answer in 3:14-22 God had given a lengthy promise of what was going to happen telling Moses that He was I AM WHO I AM, and the elders would believe him and would eventually be led out of Egypt and into freedom and not empty-handed at that. After listening to God, you would think Moses was ready to give it up and do what God said, without any questions. No, instead, Moses said, "But suppose they won't believe me, or listen to me." Suppose they say, "The Lord has not appeared to you." This was not just inquiry by Moses but was pure objection. He was thinking " This is great in theory, but it is useless because they won't believe that You really spoke to me. I don't have the ability to convince them."

It wasn't so much that they would not believe, as it was Moses did not believe. He felt that simply being a name dropper of Yahweh was not enough to convince the Israelites.

#### **B.TOO CONSUMED WITH SELF AND CREDENTIALS**

It seems that Moses is actually fearing what the people think

rather than fearing God. He was probably fearing that he would appear to the people as a silly old man. He was probably thinking "Hey I know what it is like in Egypt and if I go waltzing in there as an old shepherd from the desert, they are going to make a mockery out of me as I try to go to the throne of Pharaoh. And if I do get that access, can you imagine Pharaoh letting me lead the Israelites right out the door to freedom? Moses feared being made a fool of and being embarrassed. He felt he still had some dignity and all would be lost if he did this thing that God had told him to do. But, God had already told him they would listen to him, but this didn't make sense to him. He did not think they would have respect for him. He didn't have the outward credentials that would immediately demand respect.

How often do we know what is right to do in standing up for the Lord, but because we might be embarrassed of our faith, we remain silent? We become afraid that we might lose respect. Rather than honoring God, we just blend in with the world, for we don't want to be thought of as being weird.

## **2.GOD'S RESPONSE OF THREE SIGNS                      VV 2-9**

Moses was concerned about credentials, so God gave him signs.

Moses would now experience God's power and miracles.

The Jews require a sign     1 Cor 1:22

To know that He is Lord     6:7, 10:2, 7:5,17, 8:10,22, 9:14,29

### **A.THE ROD BECOMES A SNAKE    2-5**

Naturally Moses, being a shepherd would have a staff in his hand.

God uses the ordinary to do the extraordinary. God was saying

something like "Let me show a little of who I am by doing something unexpected with it.

The two symbols of Pharaonic authority were the shepherd's crook and the cobra. Pharaohs were represented with the crook in one hand and a winnowing flail in the other; and the cobra appeared on the front of the pharaoh's crown.

The staff turns into a snake. Moses reacted by fleeing, of course. Moses was then to grab the snake by the tail, a dangerous move that demonstrates God's dominion over creation.

This staff was simply a tool to be used by Moses by the power of God.

There are many instruments today such as television, computers, music, etc that can be used for God's glory or the devil. Take the tools we have today and make them as a rod in the hand of God.

Yield yourselves as instruments of righteousness.. Rom 6

#### B.HIS HAND BECOMES DISEASED

6-7

The second sign was the skin disease that God inflicts on Moses and then cures. The significance seems to be authority over disease and sickness. It makes you think of the plagues such as boils. He would do many signs and wonders in Egypt. The Lord can do whatever He pleases. All He asked of Moses was to stand before the king and deliver the message, then just get out of the way as God shook the whole country with His awesome power.

#### C.NILE WATER TURNS TO BLOOD

8-9

The Nile River was the source of Egypt's life. God could take that water and turn it into blood coagulating on the dry ground. This was going to be the first of the plagues.

The signs served to convince Moses, the people, and the Egyptians.

By this time, Moses objections had been destroyed. His lack of credentials was swallowed up by God's presence in and with him.

God had revealed Himself as Yahweh. and Moses was to be the agent of God's power. But this evidence didn't overcome a stubborn will.

Moses did not want to go to Egypt, it is clear to see.

### **3.I AM NOT A FLUENT SPEAKER**

**V 10**

#### **THE FOURTH OBJECTION**

##### **A.SPEECH PROBLEM**

10

If God can turn rods into serpents and cause and cure leprosy and Turn water into blood, then He can enable Moses to speak in His Word with power.

Moses was grasping at straws. Maybe he wasn't good with words but God didn't need his eloquence. He should have been thinking about God's power and glory.

"Lord I just don't get my thoughts and words together very easy. My tongue is slow on the draw." I just can't get up in front of people."

Moses was thinking, "Since I have this problem, you need to get somebody else." Is he saying that God didn't know about this. But the focus is not to be on Moses but on the I AM and His limitless power.

Paul knew about this when he went into Corinth and preached the Gospel. 1 Cor 2:1-3

The truth of the matter is that when we see Moses speaking, he is very eloquent delivering in the power of the Lord. His farewell speech in Deuteronomy is magnificent.

## B.IMPOLITE CRITICISM OF GOD

He could be implying that God had not corrected the problem.

### **4.GOD'S RESPONSE**

**VV 11-12**

God then said ok, here is what I will do.

A.THE WHO QUESTIONS 11

B.FOCUS IS TO BE ON THE I AM 11-12

God is sovereign over all.

C.COMMAND AND PRESENCE 12

I will be with your mouth. That is divine speech therapy.

If we are filled with God's Word and Spirit, He will give us the

Words when we need them.

God is telling Moses to just trust Him.

### **5.SOMEBODY ELSE CAN DO IT BETTER V 13**

A.CHOOSE SOMEONE ELSE

O Lord, please send someone else. Lord, this task is not for me.

Somebody else can do way much better. There are many more  
qualified better than me.

Luke 6:46 Acts 10:14 Moses calls Him Lord but yet refuses Him.

[B.NO](#)

### **6.GOD'S RESPONSE**

**VV 14-17**

A.GOD'S ANGER

God does not give up on us but He does become angry at us at times.

B.GOD'S ACCOMODATION

God will sometime give us what we want, but it is not the best  
for us. Having it our way can be a painful discipline.

God said alright, have it your way, I'll send Moses, but it isn't  
My best. One day you will wish You'd followed my call."

Aaron wasn't always a help to Moses.

God accommodated Moses' desire but it was less than the best.

Aaron was the one who got impatient while Moses was on the Mountain and created the golden calf for the people to worship. He told the people "This is your god, O Israel who brought you up from the land of Egypt.

Aaron and Miriam were critical of him also.

#### C.GOD'S PLAN WITH MOSES,NOT INSTEAD OF MOSES

God was with Moses and Aaron was with Moses but Aaron did not replace Moses. It was in God's plan all the way to use Moses.

#### D.MOSES WOULD SPEAK TO AARON FOR THE LORD

Aaron would be Moses' mouth but Moses would be Aaron's God.

Moses is God's chosen instrument.

Actually as we will see, Moses has a lot of extended dialogs with Pharaoh. He seems to be the one speaking later on.

#### E.THE STAFF

Don't forget your staff Moses. The staff will be used in the plague narratives. The shepherd's staff will humble the world power at the time. It will cause the water to part and lead the people to Horeb.

It is the symbol of lowliness to bring about redemption.

God knows us better than we know ourselves, so we must trust and obey Him. He knows our weaknesses. The will of God will never lead us where the power of God can't enable us. We are to take Him at His word. When He calls us to serve Him, we should respond with trust. He will empower us to do the job He calls us to do.

Let's pray.