

SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Exodus: Set Free to Live Free

TITLE: God's Call - Our Excuses

SCRIPTURE: **Exodus 4:1-17**

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PASTOR: Charlie Boyd

We are in a series on the Book of Exodus from the Old Testament. Why study this book? Exodus is the Old Testament story of the salvation of God's people that points forward to the great salvation that comes to us by faith in Jesus. Exodus helps us better understand what it means for God to *set us free* from our broken, messy lives so we can *live free* in loving, personal relationship with God.

If you're a follower of Jesus, there will be times in your life when God will call you into something that, to you, seems risky and downright impossible. And because you feel totally unqualified for the assignment, you make excuses about why you can't do what God has called you to do.

How do we break free from our feelings of inadequacy, insufficiency, and incompetence and step into God's call on our lives? What qualifies us to be the people that God calls us to be and do the things God calls us to do?

God's Call - Our Excuses

Two Ways That God Deals With Our Excuses:

1. **When God calls you to do the impossible, he is patient with you.**

God is patient with your excuses, your doubts, your insecurities, and your struggles to understand. He wants you to trust him, so he patiently stays after you.

2. **When God calls you to do the impossible, he is patient with your weakness, doubts, and insecurity, but he won't accept your unwillingness.**

Disobedience can ignite God's loving discipline in our lives.

Two Things About God's Calling That Can Help Us Overcome Our Excuses:

1. God's calling usually involves taking the ordinary and making it extraordinary.

We have a personal God who loves to partner with you by simply using who you are and what you have. The tragedy in your life, the pain, the disappointment, has all made you who you are, and that is the only *you* that God wants.

2. God's calling is not about who you are; it's about who he is.

God doesn't want your *ability*, he wants your *availability*. God doesn't believe in you and put his hope and trust in you. He believes in himself and what he can do through you.

What was the most important thing God gave Moses to take back with him to Egypt?

His name. God told Moses, "take MY name with you". The same is true for us. When you walk around with insecurity and you say, "I am so stupid" or "I am a loser", God says, "No, I AM not!" And, if God goes in you, you are not either!

We all have times where we feel inadequate and doubt that God can use broken people like us to do his work. Despite our weakness and imperfections, God is in the business of using "unqualified" people to do big things. That's the only kind of people he uses.

In Him, I am ... *qualified*.

For Discussion:

1. Is there something in your life for which you are making excuses?
2. Is there anything in your life that you are unwilling to surrender to God? Any area of your life where you know you are refusing to obey God?