

Exodus: No Longer Slaves (5)

Title: Oh Lord, Please Send Someone Else

Read: Exodus 4:1-13 - *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."*

- 1) It's okay to admit that you are a pansy.
 - a) Moses was a man we can relate to.
 - i) Have you ever wanted to be a mighty oak and had to face the facts that you are more like a little garden pansy than a stately oak?
 - ii) Evidence of His Pansy Tendencies
 - (1) He was raised by Pharaoh's daughter; she probably spoiled him.
 - (2) By nature, Moses was a runner and not a confronter.
 - (a) We just read that when the staff turned miraculously into a snake, He ran from it. (Exodus 4:3)
 - (b) Instead of standing up for what was right after defending a Hebrew slave, he ran far away from Egypt in fear of Pharaoh.
 - (3) Instead of returning to Egypt and doing what was right, He was content to watch his father-in-law's sheep for a living.
 - (4) He is afraid of Pharaoh, he is afraid of the snake on the ground, and he is afraid to talk on behalf of God because he was afraid of the Israelites possible reaction!

b) Look at God's mercy and patience toward Moses.

i) God says: I know you are weak and fearful, but I will be with you.

ii) Look at 4:10 NLT - *But Moses pleaded with the Lord, "O Lord, I'm not very good with words. I never have been, and I'm not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled."*

v. 11 - *Then the Lord asked Moses, "Who makes a person's mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the Lord?"*

v. 12 - *Now go! I will be with you as you speak [will be with your mouth], and I will instruct you in what to say. (God says: I will teach you what to say).*

2) It's not okay to refuse your calling.

Exodus 4:13-14 - *But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else."*

Doesn't this sound familiar? Have you ever acted in this way?

v.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."*

a) It is okay to lack confidence but it is not okay to refuse your calling.

Hebrews 3:1, 2 - *Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, **2** who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house.*

Two things here:

i) Like Moses who was called to a heavenly calling by God, we have been called to a heavenly calling by Jesus!

It is okay to admit your weakness, but it is not okay to refuse to go in God's power.

ii) Consider Jesus. One translation says to fix your eyes on Jesus who was faithful to His calling.

b) If you are going to fear something, fear the evil of unbelief.

It is okay to lack confidence, but it is not okay to refuse and rebel in unbelief.

Hebrews 3:10-12 - *Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' **11** As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.' " **12** Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.*

3:19 - *So, we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.*

4:1 - *Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.*

- i) What should we fear? We should fear a heart that refuses to believe God.
- ii) An evil heart of unbelief is not a heart that struggles with faith. Rather, it is a heart that has heard God's voice and refuses to believe God.

3) It's okay to dislike the increase of trouble while obeying God.

In chapter 5, Moses goes to the Israelites and they received his words initially. But Pharaoh increased their burdens while refusing to let them go.

Their faith quickly turned to unbelief.

- a) Sometimes when you receive the word and obey God, circumstances can get worse.
- b) Instead of crying out to God for help, the Israelites who have seen God's power demonstrated through Moses and heard Aaron's words attacked Moses and Aaron.

Looking to blame someone is not the way you handle persecution or a tough test of your faith.

- c) Moses has a long ways to go also; he follows their lead and he blames God.

*5:22-23 - Then Moses turned to the Lord and said, "O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? **23** For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all."*

4) It's not okay to harden your heart with unbelief.

- a) It is okay to be disappointed, but it is not okay to get hard-hearted when things don't go as you expected or as fast as you expected.
- b) We have to help one another fight the battle with unbelief.

*Hebrews 4:1, 2 - Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. **2** For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.*

- c) They did not use their faith and they did not listen to those who were full of faith.

They did not enter their rest.

Deliverance, rest, and continued freedom from slavery will take a life of faith.