

Serm.Ser.: Moses–God’s Poster Child of Meekness and Dedication–Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN-6/13/10

Title: “Who Me, Lord?”

Text: Exodus 3: 10-4: 17

Theme: In light of the relationship of faith which we have with the Father in Jesus, and his promise to equip us with his gifts and Spirit to carry out our calling, there is no more room for excuses – but only trust.

A life of excuses before God is one of misplaced trust

Focusing on who I am rather than who my God is

1. Moses was worried about his credibility (look like a fool) and was not relying on God’s
2. Sometimes false humility masks over the sinful pride harbored against God
3. Truly he was nothing but God was everything—the truth God wanted him and us to learn
 - a. *We are fools for Christ's sake. 1 Cor. 4:10*

Pleading ignorance of God and His will by ducking the truth of the facts

1. Moses’ worry over Pharaoh and Israel’s ignorance belied his understanding of “The I Am”(Yahweh) God was
2. Excuses from ignorance over God’s will/plan in our lives comes from lack of time in his Word hearing it

Doubting the authority God gives to exercise the life of ministry which He has given to us

1. Moses concerned more about popular vote rather than God’s approval – audience of One
2. Who do you and I aim to please on a daily basis in our home/work/neighborhood/church?

Limiting God because of my own limitations

1. *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; 2 Cor. 9:8*

Testing/trying God’s patience because we would rather not step out on faith to serve (**Print 4: 13-17**)

God backs up our trust and our calling to minister for him with His promises

He lays before us His commitment to His covenant with us

1. 5 times he reminds Mose that He is the God of covenant (*God of Abraham . . .*)
2. Every time we are gifted and called to service we are reminded of His promise
 - a. *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

He promised to go with us — *everywhere we go!*

1. Moses is not standing up to Pharaoh with his but God’s authority
2. *"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" . . .Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:5-6*
3. *Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matt 28: 20b*

He give us the record of His Word to stand on

1. Moses knew before hand what would happen so that when it did it would confirm and embolden (**3:14-22**)
2. Christ tells us “everything in advance” (**Mark 13: 23**) so that when it does we “rejoice” (**Luke 21: 22**)

He gives us miraculous signs to confirm His working through us

1. To Moses he gave not one but 4 signs (staff, hand, blood, exodus)
2. To us he has already given us the miracle of the cross and empty tomb in his Son Jesus
3. But He continued grace is the miracle of the Spirit’s gifting each of us to serve in ways beyond ourselves
4. *All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Cor. 12:11*

He gives us the tools/resources to help us do the job (**4: 14-17**)

1. He gives us spiritual leaders to speak for him and for us (Aaron to Moses)
 - a. *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up Ephes. 4:11-12*
2. He connects each of us to the Body of Christ so that we become a gift to each other in carrying out the work
 - a. *From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephes. 4:16*

How to Lose a Speech

Chauncey Depew, a renowned after diner speaker, who was a contemporary of Mark Twain, once played a trick on Mark Twain when

they both were scheduled to speak at a banquet. Twain spoke first and was received with great enthusiasm. Intimidated by the renowned Twain and the fact that he would have to speak after him, when Depew's turn came, he stood up and said, "Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies and Gentlemen, before this dinner, Mark Twain and I agreed to trade speeches. He has just delivered mine and I'm grateful for the way you have received it. However, I regret to say that I've lost his speech and can't remember a thing he had to say." He sat down amid much applause.

God's Get's 100%

An ill-prepared college student taking an economics exam just before Christmas vacation wrote on his paper, "Only God knows the answers to these questions. Merry Christmas!" The professor graded the papers and wrote this note: "God get 100, you get 0! Happy New Year!"

What decides in which direction you go?

In the city of Tallmadge, Ohio is a courthouse that stands in such a way that the rain drops that fall on the north side go into Lake Ontario and on to the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Atlantic Ocean, while those that fall on the south side to down to the Ohio River and on to the Mississippi River and out to the Gulf of Mexico. Just a little puff of wind determines the destiny of a rain-drop for two thousand miles.

Starting from dead stop

A train locomotive engine must exert a pull of as much as thirty pounds for every ton of weight in a railroad car to start it from a standstill, and even more in very cold weather. Once the car is in motion, only about three pounds per ton may be needed to keep it moving on a straight and level track.

Exodus 3:10-22

¹⁰So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

¹¹But Moses said to God, "**Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?**"

¹²And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

¹³**Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"**

¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.' " ¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, '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, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation. ¹⁶Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers--the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob--appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. ¹⁷And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites--a land flowing with milk and honey.' ¹⁸The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.' ¹⁹But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. ²⁰So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go. ²¹And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. ²²Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians."

Exodus 4:1-17

¹ **Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'"**

²Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. ³The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. ⁴Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand.

⁵"This," said the LORD, "is so 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." ⁶Then the LORD said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was leprous, like snow. ⁷"Now put it back into your cloak,"

he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.

⁸Then the LORD said, "If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first miraculous sign, they may believe the second.

⁹But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground."

¹⁰ **Moses said to the LORD, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."**

¹¹ The LORD said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD?" ¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

¹³ **But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it."**

¹⁴ Then the LORD'S anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and his heart will be glad when he sees you. ¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. ¹⁶ He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. ¹⁷ But take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it."