

## When God Speaks, Don't Make Excuses

### **Scripture: Exodus 3**

Like in the time of Moses, many people continue to be in bondage. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt and for most of us today we have become slaves of money, of power, of our own aspirations. God wants us to know that He can set us free – a true and real freedom that can only be found in Jesus Christ. **Col 1:13-14** says **For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His Son in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin.** God remains faithful to His covenant even today. He has proven His love for us when He gave us Jesus Christ to bear the penalty of our sins.

We have to understand that nothing in our life happens by chance or coincidence. God is always in control and He has orchestrated events in our life to draw us to Him. If like Moses, we are living in our wilderness, God is using this time to mold us and prepare us for what He has in store for us.

If we look at the life of Moses, we can see that his first 40 years he was raised as a prince of Egypt, after that he spent another 40 years in the wilderness when at 80 years old, he had his encounter with God. God reveals Himself to Moses through a burning bush. Telling Moses that He has heard the cries of Israel and that He has a plan to redeem them from their slavery.

This plan included Moses' participation, which Moses was not ready to undertake.

### **The Excuses of Moses**

1. I am a nobody. (Exodus 3:11-12)

Moses looked at himself as a nobody, so why would Pharaoh listen to him? God assured Moses that He will always be with him (v 12). God did not boast about Moses' qualifications, about his connections being the former prince, nor about his education with Egyptian learning. It was never about Moses and his achievements. It was never about him possessing or lacking qualities. It is about God. It is always about God. And God promised to be with him always.

In the same way, it is never about us – not about our education, our skills, our connections but in all things it is always about HIM. And God's promise never changes – He promises to be with us. This should be enough.

2. I don't what to say. Who shall I say sent me? (Exodus 3:13-14)

Moses then contested that he did not know what to say and what if they asked "Who sent you?"

God answered Moses, "I Am who I Am". In Hebrew this means 'Eheyeh (H1961) 'asher (H834) 'Eheyeh (H1961), I am that (who or what) I am--I am the Self-existent One, the Eternal, who always has been and always will be (Ps. 90:2). He is Self-Sufficient, Self-Dependent, Unchangeable, Sovereign, All-Powerful and Covenant-keeper. Moses was to reveal to the Israelites the personal name of God, *Yahweh* (Is 43:10-11; Rev 1:8, 17-18; Heb 13:8; John 8:58). He is the same God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (v 15)

3. What if no one believes me (Exodus 4: 1-7)

Moses feared failure. So God performed miracle to show Moses that He is greater than the Egyptian gods. (vv 2-9) He uses the staff in Moses' hand to show him His power. This staff later becomes the tool of empowerment for Moses as he set out to Egypt and battles for the freedom of Israel.

Are we in the same predicament? We don't want to obey because we are afraid we are going to fail. God wants to show us His power and His faithfulness, but are we willing to be His messengers?

4. I am not eloquent (Exodus 4:10-12)

Still Moses tries to find a way out by reasoning out to God that he is incapable of using words to convince people. He is afraid that he is not qualified to speak and lead the people of Israel. In verse 11 God reminds Moses that He made his mouth and that He will tell Moses what to say and what to do.

5. Please send someone else. (Exodus 4:11-13)





Moses was not able to make his excuses work. His final argument with God was to send somebody else (v.13). It was not anymore an excuse but a display of disobedience to God (v.13). For this, God's anger burned against Moses, a fatherly anger to lead Moses to obedience. In the end though reluctantly, Moses obeyed God.

When God speaks, we should listen and obey. We should put aside our excuses and fears because the more we listen, the more we will get to know God and the more we will realize that God is sufficient. Those who are afraid to serve God because of their insufficiency are most qualified. When God calls us to do something, He will also equip us to be able to complete the task. Let us not be afraid to fail. Instead let us embrace failures.

God knows when and how to get our attention (Exodus 3:3), but often we are too busy to hear or we never run out of excuses. When God speaks, let us listen. It is only when we obey and depend on God that we can truly experience His power and His presence in our lives.

**APPLICATION:**

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p><b>Moses, Moses!</b> How did God call the attention of Moses according to Exodus 3?          How is God calling your attention today? How is He calling out to you? What kind of wilderness are you living in?          What are your excuses to try to avoid what God is commanding you to do?</p>
	<p><b>Holy Ground.</b> How do you practice God's presence in your life especially at home?          How do you and your family bear witness to God's name?          How do you and your family heed God's commandments or do you all have excuses?</p>
	<p>Share with your discipleship group the excuses you are holding on to. What specific steps are you going to do in order to start obeying God?</p>
	<p>What is God calling you to do today? Is He telling you to share the Gospel with someone? Is He telling you to lead a group? Is He asking you to join a ministry? How does God want to use you to be a blessing to others?</p>