

Intro: I thought for a minute my Pastor was actually going to HIT me! "I was driving down the road with Dick Drehmer, the pastor I served with Germantown MD. He was Sr, I was associate. He was the nicest guy...look up Pastor in dictionary, his picture! Warm, encouraging, soft spoken, gentle. He said something complementary about a task I had done, I said, "Thanks, but it wasn't me, Sometimes I think God called me to be a Pastor because I wasn't good for anything else!" He slammed on brakes, pulled over to the side, turned around, put his finger in my face and said, "Don't you EVER let me hear you say anything like that again!" God doesn't make any junk...What we do is hard...highest calling in the world, he wouldn't trust it to just anyone. If HE called you, don't question Him. It takes the VERY BEST to do what we do...and don't you forget it!

That is where Moses is in Exodus 3-4 Questioning God's Call in his life.

You know the story: Moses and Burning Bush: 3:1-10 Page 41

After Moses hears the call...He has a series of 5 excuses as why he "isn't the guy!" God wants.

These fears and objections are just like what we say when we hear God call us sometimes...Look with me at them.

And let's learn what God has to say when WE make excuses to Him about why we can't serve Him.

5 Excuses

- **Moses Excuse: #1:** I'm Not Good Enough: I'm Not Adequate. Vs 11

Moses started right off the bat with this as his first excuse. "God, you are calling me to do something that I'm not up to!

~Call his bluff on this one...Moses HAS the background to do what God wants.

~Who better? Moses raised in Pharaoh's palace, Knew the culture, knew language, Knew process

~But, sometimes it is true that God

God's Answer: Vs 12: I will be with you! Moses, this isn't about you, it is about what I want to do! Serve me!
The deliverance of the people didn't depend on the ability of Moses but on the presence and power and sufficiency of God!
There is an old saying about ministry: God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called! EX: Disciples: Most UNlikely
Illus: Howard Hendricks: God is looking for 3 things from you: FAT: Faithful Available Teachable

- **Moses Excuse: #2:** I Don't Know Enough! (Ask: Who has sent me? I'm not sure!) Vs 13

God, I don't even know who to say you are! How am I going to tell them about you...when I hardly know you myself!

I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH! We feel that way sometimes don't we? I know I do.

Illus: Children's wing: Kids ask me a question: Cold terror. First sin in the bible? I KNEW it was trick question!

This is something many of us say when God calls us to teach, serve, or minister to others: Children, Youth, Adults.

~ None of us know enough: Professor said one day: Just stay one step, one lesson, one idea ahead of the class!

~ Nothing like knowing that after you teach you are going to say, "Does anyone have any questions! Make you study!

~ You don't HAVE to know all the answers: Just say what the disciples said... "Come and see" Andrew w/Peter

Illus: Remember when Jonathan preaching a couple weeks ago...what he said: Bring them to Jesus. Enough, Let Him work!

God's Answer: Tell them, the great "I Am" (The Eternal, Almighty, Self-Existent God!)

The God of their fathers, The one you have HEARD about...but don't know.

The God that you don't know...but who desires to KNOW YOU is watching and paying attention

That's the one you are to tell them sent you: Moses, you just go...I'll be with you...You will learn on the way who I am!

- **Moses Excuse # 3:** People Won't Believe Me, Or Take Me Seriously. Ch 4:1

What if they don't take me seriously? What if I tell them everything you said...and they go. Uh Uh!!! NO WAY God spoke!

What am I going to do THEN?

Notice something: When you think about it, this isn't Moses excuse for HIMSELF. He's questioning God! REALLY THERE?

God, are you REALLY going to come through for me? Are you really going to step up...or will you leave me hanging?

God's Answer: Moses, Let me show you what I can do! Series of signs, demonstrations of God's power for Moses

Staff becomes Snake, and back

Hand with Leprosy....and Back

Water into Blood

Here is the interesting part as you follow the story...Despite the signs: Both here...and the 10 Plagues (same thing)

~Some believed

~Some didn't!

Again, this has NOTHING to do with Moses. Some people, just like Pharaoh, harden their heart and don't want to believe

Applic: Sometimes I will be sharing with someone and they will say, "I'm just not SURE, how can I know?"

I same the same thing every time. He HAS shown you: Sent His Son; Wrote you a book...But...Ask God. Show me God?

I Boldly ask God to show them His power in their life in an unmistakable way, I have been know to say, will you PRAY w/me?

Joh 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him,

• Moses Excuse #4: I'm Not Good With Words. 4:10

Now, unless you are a Pastor many people identify with this objection. God, I don't know what to say, I never can seem to say it right, I'm trying, but I get nervous, I get anxious, and all of a sudden it doesn't come out right! I'm trying, but never works

God's Answer: Moses, I will with your mouth and teach you what to speak! I will speak for you!

Now, again, I'm going to call Moses out on this excuse, because we have MANY different places in Exodus where Moses is MORE than eloquent in his speech! We see him in front of Pharaoh, we see him calling water from rock, we see him taking with God over and over, and he doesn't seem to have any problem. Sometimes how we FEEL...isn't REAL!

But, God took that at face value and said, Moses, we are going to solve that problem. I'm going to speak through you Later on, after last excuse, God says, "I'll give you your brother Aaron to help! I will be with BOTH of you! Vs 14-16

Applic: He gives us someone as well! I think because some of us really DO struggle...and feel anxious...and get flustered and uncomfortable, God says, listen: I'm going to take care of this for you. I'm going to help you! I'm going to give you a speaker. *"When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."* Luke 12:11

God says, listen, I have this! I'll help you say the right thing...don't be overwhelmed. And then we try it...and it doesn't come out the way we think it should! Go home and say, wow...Must be something wrong with me. God can't even help!

Illus: Can I share with you something I have learned after speaking for 30 years.

Sometimes I preach, And it just doesn't go right Discouraged, Couldn't get it out...Someone says...Awesome!

Other times I preach...Think: I'm Awesome! Ask..."What think of THAT Sermon? Not sure...what you saying!

It's NOT about us. It is about what God chooses to do THROUGH us. Your stumbling words...empowered by spirit

• Moses Objection #5: I just don't WANT to do it! 4:13

FINALLY we get to the heart of the matter. Moses just didn't want to do what God was calling him to do! We aren't sure why I'm sure some of the excuses Moses had were real. We can't question whether he felt inadequate, or his feelings about his abilities and speech and believability. But the reality is, this is the ONE thing God that made God angry! Look at it:

Vs 14: Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said:

Dennis paraphrase: I didn't ask if you WANTED to...Moses, this isn't a negotiation between equals. I am telling you: Do this

Moses didn't have any answer for this but one. He could either choose to OBEY...or DISOBEY

There wasn't any middle ground.

And I think that is true for any true servant of God. When He directs us...and tells us what He desires from us

We can obey...Or disobey: But we can't negotiate. Negotiation ALWAYS gets us in trouble.

ILLUS: I can confidently say this. The times in my spiritual life that I was furthest from God came after I negotiated, resisted, tried to find a work around...and ultimately disobeyed.

Fortunately we don't see Moses take that route. The very next verse, 18 God says, Moses, take your staff and go to Egypt, when you get there go to Pharaoh and tell him to let my people go...and perform all the miracles and signs. But know this: I'm going to harden his heart...and it's going to be a long process: And Moses did exactly that!

CONCL: How do YOU respond when you hear God calling YOU? OBEY? EXCUSE?

- Maybe it is a call to share His love for them with someone you know: Work, School, Sports, Neighbor
 - Maybe it is a call to a deeper personal relationship with Him: Devotions, Bible reading, Join Group
 - Maybe it's a call to serve Him in some way: Awana, Youth, City Serve, Tyler Heights, Mops
- Fall is coming...and I believe that God is calling all of us:
~to know Him more deeply,
~serve Him more fully
~ to share Him freely with people in our lives.

Don't let fear keep you from following the call of God in your life.

Make a commitment right now, this morning that says, God...Whatever you call me to...I will OBEY!

"Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. 1Samuel 15:22