

Moses' Excuses

Exodus 3:1-4:17

Introduction

- I.** Who is not aware of the problem of making excuses?
 - a. This matter is timeless.
 - b. Not even Bible characters are immune from this plight (see also Luke 14:16-20).
- 2.** Mighty Moses got off to a sputtering start by making at least these five excuses to the Lord.

***I.* Who am I (3:11, 12)?**

- A.** We know this about Moses.
 - 1.** He was a foreigner (not a citizen).
 - 2.** He was an orphan.
 - 3.** He was not extremely wealthy.
 - 4.** He was not in a position of great authority.
- B.** Moses was told that he was God's tool!
 - 1.** It really did not matter who he was.
 - 2.** Jesus tells us the same (Matthew 28:18-20).

***II.* Who are You (3:13, 14)?**

- A.** Moses was likely in a polytheistic setting.
- B.** God's answer is amazing. It reveals His omni-present, omnipotent standing.
- C.** Jesus adds to this answer.
 - 1.** I am the bread of life (John 6:35).
 - 2.** I am the light of the world (John 8:12).
 - 3.** I am the door (John 10:7).
 - 4.** I am the good shepherd (John 10:11).
 - 5.** I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25).
 - 6.** I am the true vine (John 15:1).
 - 7.** Before Abraham was, I AM (John 8:58).

***III.* They will not believe (4:1).**

- A.** Moses was right, and God knew it as well (3:19)! The message did not change.
- B.** Moses would be given great proofs.
- C.** What can we do to make people believe our message?

// **I cannot speak (4:10-12).**

- A. Moses was aware of his limitations, but he was unaware of God's ability to work in spite of them.
 - 1. No matter our abilities, we have limitations.
 - 2. We cannot become side tracked by these, however.
- B. The one talent man saw what would not work rather than what would (Matthew 25:25).

// **Send someone else (4:13).**

- A. When out of excuses, Moses just nominated somebody else.
- B. Somebody else cannot do what *we* can do. Christianity calls on personal responsibility
 - 1. Matthew 16:24
 - 2. Matthew 10:39
 - 3. Matthew 10:32

IF EVERYTHING WAS EASY

If everything was easy
And nothing made us sad
If everything was easy and nothing turned out bad
If heartaches never happened
And tears would never flow
We'd stay such little people
And never really grow.
If everything was easy
And fell into our hands
If everything was easy
And went just like we planned
We'd take it all for granted
And feel no greater gain
For strength comes when we suffer
And wisdom comes from pain.
If everything was easy
I'd be no good to you
For how could I look at your hurt
And say I'd been there, too?
I'd be a petty person
Just an infant all my days
And I'd never thank my Savior
For the sunshine's golden rays.

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