

**A LESSON ON USING WHAT WE HAVE
FROM THE LIFE OF MOSES
(EXODUS 3:1-6:30)**

What can you do for God? You may be guilty of comparing yourself with others and what they can do and when compared to others you may feel like there is little or nothing you can do.

Some may take a personal inventory and say, "I have no musical abilities. I can't sing or play any kind of instrument." Others may say, "I can't stand before others to teach or do anything like that. When I try to stand before others I get so nervous I don't know where I am."

So what can you do then for God? Up to this point you may have been thinking about what others can do that you can't do.

Notice just because you can't do what some others can do doesn't mean that you can't do anything for God. God has given everyone of us unique abilities and if you're saved you have at least one spiritual gift.

I have often said, "I believe God can and will use anyone who is willing to be used." This evening I want us to consider "A lesson on using what we have from the life of Moses."

This is the challenging question we need to answer. Are we using what we have for God?

**I. WHAT MOSES WAS CALLED UPON TO DO ON THIS OCCASION
(Exodus 3:1-10)**

Moses was called by the Lord to bring the children of Israel out of their Egyptian bondage (3:10).

God had seen the way the Egyptians had afflicted His people. He knew their sorrows and heard their cries and was now come down to deliver them. Notice here is a very important principle - God uses people to carry out His will just as the devil uses people to carry out his will. From this principle we may conclude that you and I will either be used of God or we'll be used of the devil.

Since God uses men to do His bidding, he appeared to the man Moses in a miraculous way and spoke to him from a bush which burned but was not consumed. God called upon Moses to be an instrument of blessing through which God would do marvelous things and thereby manifest His glory to men.

Someone has said, "God will never call us to do anything that He will not give us the grace to carry it out." This truth was certainly demonstrated in the life of Joshua when God called upon him to lead the children of Israel into the promised land... He was called upon to march around the city of Jericho...

This truth of God's calling is also demonstrated in the life of Gideon. God called upon Gideon to deliver the Israelites from the oppression which they suffered from the Midianites. What God called upon him to do, God gave the grace and the strength for him to do and to make sure that God was glorified and not men, He used only 300 men in the face of overwhelming odds.

Truly, "God had chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." (I Cor. 1:27)

Notice just as God called upon Moses to carry out His will concerning a particular thing, He has called upon each of us to do certain things as well in His service. The question again is this - "Are we using what we have for God. Now let's see how Moses responded to what God had called him to do. Notice...

II. WHAT MOSES CONTRIVED IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S CALLING

Moses came up with one excuse after another why he couldn't do what God had called upon him to do (Exodus 3:11,13; 4:1,10,13; 6:12,30).

I suppose if any man tried to get out of what God had called him to do, Moses surely did just that. Every step of the way Moses made excuses to the Lord why he couldn't do what God had called him to do.

A. The first excuse he made was that he was a nobody to be sent before Pharaoh (Ex. 3:11). "Who am I that I should go before Pharaoh?"

The Lord met this excuse that Moses made by promising to be with him when he stood before Pharaoh (Ex.3:12). Notice this is the same assurance we can have when we go about to carry out God's will.

When God calls upon us to go out and witness we can be assured that He is with us. This is what He promised in Matthew 28:19,20. And this is what we can be assured of anytime we are carrying out God's will.

B. Then Moses came up with a second excuse (Ex. 3:13). Moses said, "What

am I going to say when I tell the Israelites the God of their fathers has sent me and they asked me who He is?" Moses was saying in essence, "What proof can I present that the God of the Israelites has sent me?"

Notice the Lord answering this second excuse by identifying Himself as the ever-existing and ever-present God who has come to fulfill His promise to Abraham's descendants (Ex. 3:14,15). You and I may tend to think we are forgotten about because of our circumstances but God is fully aware of what confronts us and God will fulfill His promises to us.

C. Moses didn't stop there! Notice he had another excuse why he couldn't do what God had called him to do (Ex.4:1). Moses said, "The Israelites will not believe that God hath sent me." In other words, "How am I going to prove to them that God hath appeared to me and called me to do this thing?"

To this excuse God gave Moses the power to perform certain signs using the rod which he held, his hand, and the water which he would take from the river. These signs would authenticate his calling (Ex. 4:2-9).

D. Notice this still wasn't enough for Moses. He then made a fourth excuse - "I am not eloquent" (Ex. 4:10). In other words, "I can't say the things that need to be said."

To this excuse God said He was the one who had made man's mouth and he would tell him what to say (Ex. 4:11,12).

E. If that wasn't enough Moses still made another excuse (Ex. 4:13). He said in essence, "I can't go down there alone, could you send someone else to go with me?"

To this excuse God appointed Moses' brother Aaron to go with him and to be his spokesman.

F. Notice even when Moses went down to Egypt as God had commanded him, he still made excuses when he was not readily accepted by the Israelites (Ex. 6:12,30).

So what of excuses? God didn't accept any of the excuses that Moses came up with. Surely this ought to be something for us to consider in light of God's calling! I don't believe God buys most of the excuses that people try to peddle.

III. WHAT MOSES CAME TO REALIZE THROUGH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Moses came to realize that it's the Lord's presence and power that makes the difference in a person's life and brings the victory.

Someone has said, "Moses spent 40 years learning that he was somebody, then 40 years learning that he was a nobody, and then 40 years learning that God is everything."

David had learned this truth. When he went out against the Philistine giant Goliath he said,

"Thou comest to me with sword and spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou has defied.

And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear, for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hand" (I Sam. 17:45,47).

This truth is what we need to learn - the battle is the Lord's! The success of the ministry is the Lord's. The victory over our enemies is the Lord's

Charles Spurgeon, the great preacher of the past, stated it in this way when criticized as a young preacher. He said, "it's not the age of the trumpet that makes the difference, it's the one blowing through it."

I suppose if there is a lesson we need to learn it's this truth. It's not our abilities, or our talents, it's not our gifts or plans, it's God using those who are willing to be used by Him and going about to do what He calls us to do

The story is told when W.A. Criswell was first called to the ministry in Dallas his father overheard some of the men casting reflection upon his young son and being skeptical as to how he could ever follow the ministry of the great George Truett. His father came to the defense of his son and spoke up saying, "I want you brethren to know that the same spirit that worked so mightily through George Truett is going to work through my son."

IV. WHAT MOSES CONSENTED TO DO WHEN GOD HAD ANSWERED AND REJECTED ALL HIS EXCUSES (EX. 4:20)

Moses consented to do what God had called him to do.

Consenting to do God's will oftentimes involves much more than it did for Moses. Moses made excuses but when God answered these he obeyed. Notice it took much more for Jonah when God called him to go to Nineveh. Just what is the lesson here for us to learn from the life of Moses? I believe it can be seen in the question which God asks of Moses in Ex. 4:2. What is in thine hand⁹

