

## You Have Spiritual Gifts, Message 4- “Why me?”

**EXODUS 3** - <sup>1</sup> Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

<sup>3</sup> So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.” <sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” <sup>5</sup> “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. <sup>8</sup> So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “**Who am I** that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

When Moses first receives this call from God- all he can think about is the past times when he failed- specifically the lowest point of his life 40 years in his past.

When you think about God using you in a supernatural way through the use of your spiritual gifts, how do you respond? Do you rush to it- or is there a hesitation based on your past?

Backstory to Exodus 3:

- Moses- rescued as a baby from an order of male Israeli infanticide by Pharaoh’s own daughter
- Raised in a privileged way. He was brought up in the palace and so had intimate understanding of all the culture and ways of the Egyptian people.
- Eventually, God begins to stir in Moses His call and purpose to be the deliverer of the people of Israel from their slavery to Egypt. He begins to have a dream. “Now when he was forty year old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. And seeing one of them suffer wrong, *he defended and avenged him who was oppressed* and struck down the Egyptian. For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that *God would deliver them by his hand* but they did not understand.” Acts 7:23-25

- At 40 Moses is drawn to his heritage; to his people. Feels this calling by God. As he goes out to visit the Hebrew work sites, he sees an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave. He feels the growing identification with his own people and begins to understand the full weight of their suffering and burden. Moses looks in all directions to make sure no one is watching him and kills the Egyptian, burying his body in the sand. The next day Moses is back out at the construction sites and sees two Hebrew men fighting and asks why they are fighting to which one replies, "Who appointed you to be our prince and our judge? Exodus 2:14 (read - "Who do you think you are ?!?)") Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?" Suddenly Moses realizes that everyone knows what he has done. The Hebrews have misunderstood his actions and have rejected him as their leader. Pharaoh recognizes that Moses' allegiance has changed and is trying to kill him. Moses is forced to flee Egypt.
- Moses had foolishly tried to accomplish the plan of God for his life in his own strength and understanding. He has killed a man; been rejected by the Hebrews; forced to flee Egypt in fear of his life; and is now wandering the desert, serving as a shepherd (a job that Egyptians found detestable), not even owning the flock he is tending but serving as a hired hand to his father in law. He feels like a total failure!

## OBJECTIONS TO GOD'S CALL/ DESIRE TO USE US

### 1. **Who am I?**

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

12 And 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**[b]** will worship God on this mountain."

God doesn't even answer Moses' question directly. He answers his fear and doubt with an assurance that His Presence will go with him- the missing piece in Moses' first attempt to fulfill the call of God on his life.

Don't focus on yourself so much. Think about God.

### 2. **Who are You?**

**EX. 3:13-14** *13 But Moses protested, “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?” 14 God replied to Moses, “I am who I am. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you.”*

Hebrews used descriptive titles for God:

Elohim- Creator God-

“I AM that I AM” --Yahweh Elohim (God uses these two names for Himself interchangeably in Exodus 3) When He reveals Himself to Moses as Yahweh-

I am eternal. I am self sufficient. I am who I am- and...

“God with”- a God who desires relationship with

God was saying to Moses- I want a personal relationship with you!

He then demonstrates his power with the staff.

(Yahweh is also the name of God most closely linked to God's redeeming acts in the Scriptures)

### **3. Why Would You Choose Me?**

**EX. 4:10-13** *10 But Moses pleaded with the Lord, “O Lord, I’m not very good with words. I never have been, and I’m not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.” 11 Then the Lord asked Moses, “Who makes a person’s mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.” 13 But Moses again pleaded, “Lord, please! Send anyone else.”*

1- Self doubt

2- Fear of failure

3- Despair

I prefer the known of my wandering in the wilderness than the unknown of deliverance.

**I’d rather stay in my safety and my sorrow than take a risk again to step into the fullness of my calling**

3:5- take off your sandals for the place where you are standing is holy ground.

- This was not referring to a particular patch of earth. The ground was Holy because God, Himself, was there.
- But God had just promised emphatically- even passionately- that He would be “with” Moses.
- Therefore, wherever Moses would go would now be “Holy Ground.”

**Main Idea- Wherever God sends you, the Holy Spirit- and the gifts He has given you- go with you.**

From the book: “Completely. Absolutely. 100 %. Forever and always, wherever you go - because of your faith in Jesus and the release of the promised Holy Spirit - the Lord is with you. Because He is with you, wherever you go is now holy. What does that mean? It means:

Sad places become joyful because you are there.

Fearful places become confident because you are there.

Chaotic places become peaceful because you are there.

Depressed places become encouraging and life-giving because you are there.

The blind see. The lame walk. The sick are made well. Those who despair are lifted up. The lost find their way...because you encounter them! And this is true (and is only true) because of who you bring with you. The Holy Spirit that has irreversibly filled you of His own free will. You couldn't leave Him behind even if you tried! According to the promise of His word, He will never allow anything on, under, or over the earth to separate you from His love, which is His very essence.

He is always with you.

However, none of this is useful if you don't do the one thing I mentioned at the beginning of this chapter: act. This book wasn't meant to deliver a cutesy 'personality type' to talk about with your co-workers for a hot day and a half, hang on your office door, and then forget. If God has revealed anything to you through this book, I pray He has done so in the form of a 150 page call to get back to the most important fundamental:

To exhort you to love others enough to do that which is uncomfortable, unknown, and perhaps even awkward, all while facing down the “Who is he?/Who is she?”, and to encourage you to continuously use your faith and your spiritual gifts. In this way, you will supernaturally demonstrate His life-giving power to a lonely and thirsty world.

And if your doubts ever cause you to ask, “Who am I?” Well...

‘God is with you, and wherever you go is Holy Ground.’ “