



The Rod of God

EXODUS 3 TO 4

Moses Excuses Himself



- ▶ What would you do if you were Moses...asked by God to go to Pharaoh to speak on behalf of the Israelites, how would you respond to God?
- ▶ We all can sympathize with Moses. You may come up with one or two more **excuses** as well.
- ▶ Why did Moses **hesitate** to obey God? And at the end why did he go?
- ▶ Have you ever been in Moses' place?

First Excuse—Who Am I?

- ▶ **Who** am I? (3:11) This is a question of **identity**. (how Moses sees himself)
- ▶ He was thinking he was a runaway fugitive, a **nobody** hiding in the wilderness...
- ▶ Nevertheless, in reality Moses was prepared by God, called by God, and God was with him in every step of his journey. (v.12)
- ▶ Why couldn't Moses see from **God's view**?



Second Excuse—What Am I?

- ▶ They will not believe me (4:1). This is a question of **status** (or creditability).
- ▶ He was only a **shepherd** holding a staff; he was thinking why would the Pharaoh listen to him?
- ▶ God will work **miracles** with that staff, a lowly piece of wood. No matter what (or who) you are God can use you as well.
- ▶ But first...Moses must **cast** the rod down.



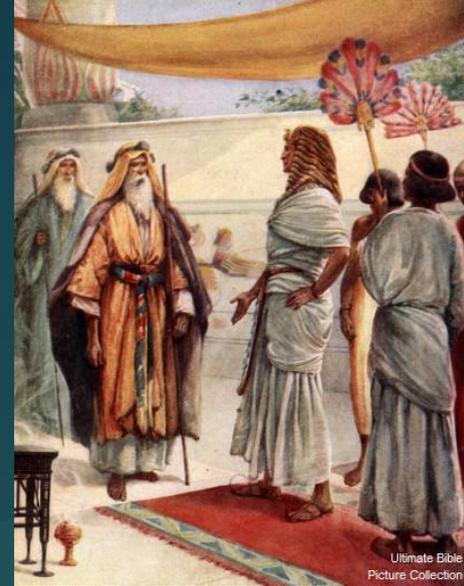
Are You Willing To Cast It Down?



- ▶ So long as he is still **holding on to** the staff, it will forever be just an ordinary staff in his hand...
- ▶ You may think you have little to offer, but offer it to God anyway (Rom. 12:1) and you will see how God will transform your seemingly “little” to become something **great**. (ill: 5 bread & 2 fishes)
- ▶ Not just throw it down, we need to pick it up too (v.4). Are you willing to pick up your talents?

Third Excuse—How Am I?

- ▶ I am not eloquent (4:10). This is a question of **ability** (or skill).
- ▶ A common excuse for most people (ill: gospel)
- ▶ (Jer. 1:9) God can use anyone of us (Exo. 4:11).
- ▶ (Eph. 6:19) God **gives** us the word (Luke 12:11-12).
- ▶ (1 Peter 3:14-15) We still should prepare ourselves.
- ▶ Notes: Aaron never really needed to speak: Moses did all the talking to Pharaoh soon enough.



We Need To Change Our View

- ▶ With all the excuses, notice there was one thing in common—it was the word “I”
- ▶ It doesn't matter if the problem (or perceived problem) is our identity, status, or ability, we are so used to seeing any difficulty from our point of view instead of God's view and His abilities.
- ▶ How do we change that? It is why our daily devotion is so important—time to “behold” God.



Conclusion

- ▶ Who are you? Have you learned to look at yourself through the eyes of God?
- ▶ Once it was only “**a staff**” (v.2), then it was “**this staff**” (v.17), at the end it was “**the staff of God**” (v.20). Where are you in this journey?
- ▶ Are you willing to **cast** yourself before God?
- ▶ And are you willing to **trust** God and His abilities instead of yours?

