

## Exodus 3-4

So last time we saw a nation in peril.

Task masters cracking the whip of suppression.

Hundreds of years have passed since the glory days of Joseph the Hebrew Hero.

A new Pharaoh has arisen to power, one who knew nothing of the great things the Jews did for the Egyptians.

He was blinded by his own insecurities and could only see this nation within his kingdom as a threat.

So severe slavery and the rigor of brickmaking was forced upon these shepherds from a distant land.

When the shrewd slavery did not weaken this nation, but only strengthened them, the desperate Pharaoh commanded those entrusted with bringing the new born Hebrew babies into this world, to murder on the spot any males that were born.

But these two women feared God more than Pharaoh, and the babies lived.

Pharaoh in his hopeless battle against this chosen nation appeals then to the parents of the Hebrews, and makes a law for them to cast their male children into the unforgiving torrents of the Nile River.

And the depravity of the whole situation just about pushes the people of God to the brink of disaster.

Was there any hope, did the God of their ancestors forget about the promises He made to them.

How can things be so bad if there truly was a God who was loving and just?

And from that point of desperation God begins to work.

And a baby was born to a Levite family, a special baby, so special the mother hid him from Pharaoh's officers for three months.

And after she could no longer hide his cries from the dangers that surrounded her and her family.

She in faith sets her baby out in a handmade ark.

For which the baby divinely lands near the Pharaoh's daughter, who looked upon this special baby, and had compassion on him.

She took him as her own, and raised him in the ways of the Egyptian culture.

As Stephen says in his plea in the Book of **Acts 7:22**

**And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.**

Moses grew to be a mighty man, even a leader in the Egyptian way of life.

And Stephen clarifies even more **Acts 7:23-26**

**23 "Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. 24 And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. 25 For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand.**

The Mighty Moses understands his calling; God will use him to deliver his brethren.

Moses thought surely it would be through might, and by the warrior's sword, that he had been trained to use.

And he thought surely his brethren would rise up with him in rebellion, so sure of himself, and his calling, he is so confident in the abilities he is equipped with.

The eloquence he has learned in the finest Universities of the day.

Surely his despised brethren would join his ranks, for from their low position, they surely would see Moses' might!

Stephen records what happens next [Acts 7:26-28](#)

[26](#) And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and tried to reconcile them, saying, 'Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?' [27](#) But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? [28](#) Do you want to kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?'

And Moses' arrogance is met with the humiliating mockery of even a slave.

And the disdain Moses receives is too much for his ego to take.

And with no followers, and no rebels joining his side, he has no other choice but to run in fear from the law, and judgment passed down from the ruler of the day.

Capital Punishment, Moses' life was required by Pharaoh for the murder of this Egyptian.

And as Stephan records...

**Acts 7:29 Then, at this saying, Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons.**

Now this is where we will pick up our narrative this evening.

The Mighty Moses is reduced to a vagabond, a stranger in the Land of Midian.

He was taken in by a Priest in Midian named Jethro.

He was given a wife named Zipporah.

Now the Midianites were a monotheistic people, they were offspring of Abraham and Keturah.

They were not idolaters, but worshipped one God.

Moses felt at home with these people.

Moses will now in the deserts of Midian receive the training and character building that he needs to lead this despondent nation to the Promised Land.

Moses in the worlds eyes was successful in Egypt, he had confidence in himself, eloquence and command when he spoke, might and the physical stature of soldier of war.

But he was not ready for God's work.

This requires a different disposition.

And as we see next in verse 1 of Exodus 3, this great man has found failure.

**Moses at the Burning Bush(Ex 6:2-7:7; 11:1-4;  
12:35,36)**

3:1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

How did a man of his stature ever get to such a low place, he after 40 years of living in Midian is still shepherding his father-in-laws sheep?

He does not even have sheep of his own.

He lives his life wondering alone in the back of the deserts, sheep of another man are his only companion.

What a lonely and pitiful existence.

Surely his wife would have expected more of this man, the mighty man she met at the well, who chased off all the men who took advantage of her weak stature.

Moses was her hero, what has come of that man? Maybe she wondered.

Perhaps she had hopes of leaving her father's house, she had dream and aspirations too, perhaps she thought this man from Egypt, would take her places.

But after 40 years Zipporah found herself still living in her father's home, and her husband has done nothing to better their family.

This man filled her head with stories of deliverance, he spoke of a calling on his life.

And here she is making all the decisions and taking care of the household, while he wanders the desert aimlessly with her father's sheep.

Now what could God possibly be doing in this man, Zipporah possibly wondered, and honestly, between verse one and 2, I would be right there with Zipporah wondering what kind of man as he become.

I am hoping for a hero, but we have a disappointment of a man.

Why did God do the miraculous to save him, what was all this about?

Well, in God's Kingdom, there can only be one hero...

**1 Cor. 1:19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."**

Moses like Gideon had too much going for him for God to get glory from his life.

God had to take all of his wisdom and eloquence and give him dependence and trust.

You see all those years wondering the deserts of Midian, Moses would have lost his art of fine dialogue.

The schooling he learned in Egypt would be long forgotten.

How many of you can still write with algebraic expressions you learned from your high school algebra class?

If it is not used it is forgotten.

The strength of his soldier's frame would be soft and aged.

This man was pathetic and weak.

And now God can get glory from this man, the time was finally right, it took 40 years for God to prepare this man, and it seems maybe one year earlier might have been better timing.

Because now when God visits this man, he is so beat up and humbled, he shamefully tries to walk away from his calling.

Why would God do this kind of thing to one of the greatest heroes of the Bible?

1 Cor. 1:26-31 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption — 31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

Moses can now be used in such a way that all glory will go to God alone.

Now God will appear to this lowly man in a new way as we have not seen before in scripture.

2 And the Angel (or Messenger) of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

So God is seen here in a miraculous sign, a bush that was not consumed by a flame.

Now God was not the burning bush, but that was the manner for which He chose to get this shepherds attention.

Why did God choose this manner is really not known for sure?

Some suggest that it is a picture of the Nation of Israel.

That although through the centuries Satan has worked relentlessly to destroy this Nation of promise through the fire of tribulation that it will not consumed, and

will continue to be a chosen people set apart as God's special people.

The fire of persecution will only strengthen them.

The harder the Egyptians cracked the whip of slavery on their backs, the mightier they grew.

And a simple overview of History shows this to be true.

Every persecution that has come upon this Nation, has failed at its attempt to destroy it.

From the brickyards of Egypt, to captivity in Babylon, under the might of the Roman oppression, all the way to the Hitler's Satanic Holocaust, for which out of that atrocity these people came back into the Land of Promise.

Satan will not stop his assault until this people group comes through the Great Tribulation, and even then they will in that horrible time, come through that fire saved, as these people of Promise will finally put their faith in the Promised Messiah Jesus, whom they crucified.

This nation will remain in the fire of trial until that day the King of Kings and Lord of Lords comes back here to take the rule of Satan from him.

Is this not true for the believer as well?

As we are instructed in **1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;**

Christian tonight, maybe you find yourself in the midst of the fiery trial, it is all around you, the pressure is mounting, the flames heat is intensifying.

You do not know how much more you can take.

But you are seeing, even though it is getting hot, God is still holding your life together, you are finding He is not letting you go.

And no matter how intense a fire Satan is trying to burn you with you are still standing like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego unsinged.

Or Paul says to the church in Corinth

## 2 Cor. 4:8-9

8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed —

You see God is your strength, and Christians understand that nothing in this life, or the life to come can separate you from God and His love for you.

So God speaks to His servant Moses from this miraculous Burning Bush...

4 So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!"

And he said, "Here I am."

5 Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." 6 Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

The Lord called out to this undone old man.

Moses the failure, forgotten, and forsaken.

He thought surely his life at this point would amount to nothing more than it was.

And it seems Moses was content with being a nobody.

He enjoyed the depression, and feeling sorry for himself.

He came to like solitude; I imagine it as even an excuse to retreat from his contentious wife.

He would rather stay in the “wo is me state of mind,”

His wife only cut him down, reminded him what a loser he was, and he was.

“Who could see a man like me, and see anything of value,” he started to believe.

But God sees this man, and has not forgotten about him, 80 years’ old is this man, far past the age of a mighty deliverer should be.

But Moses hears his name called twice, and all the familiarity about this quiet desert was changed in moment.

As God begins to speak!

I Am the God of your ancestors, take off your sandals for where you are, is holy ground.

And fear sets in, as this man's normal routine is greatly interrupted.

Moses hides his face as the LORD speaks...

7 And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. 9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Moses is now met in his own complacency with a new fate.

The calling he left has returned to him.

Surely Moses thought after all this time God had found someone else.

But Moses is revisited with his purpose in life.

The cries of the oppressed grabbed the heart of God.

For since the blood of righteous Able in the beginning of time God's heart has always been attentive to those who have been the victim of injustice.

The poor in spirit are those who's the Kingdom belongs too, and this nation is in this state of poverty of spirit.

I would warn if you are an employer who uses and takes advantage of your workers, and they cry out to God, I would warn you to repent.

The God of the scriptures always has his eyes on the oppressed.

If you are one who is overloaded, trust in this God who Sees.

Justice is coming, a Righteous Ruler is coming soon.  
The sins of the oppressor will be met with vengeance.  
For our God truly cares for you.

Jesus Himself declares **Matt 11:28**

**28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

And we also know for us the church, His called out ones, our very calling is to care for those who are burdened in this life, it is our pure religion.

**James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.**

God's attention surely is on the oppressed, and here He tells Moses **I have come down to deliver them!**

And Moses I will use you to do this!

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

What a contrast to the Moses we knew years before, who slay the Egyptian without a doubt that God would use him to deliver these people.

What a change we see in Moses, he in a desperate situation, and his own personal failure is so great that it has more power and influence in his life than a super natural talking burning bush.

His self-esteem is so low, that his disillusionment of who he was before, and the reality of who is now, that he argues with this Voice in the desert.

Now I know some of you here tonight are like this man Moses...

You feel as though you have messed up too much, you have failed too many times, you are too old to change.

Well I believe if you heed the call of God, from scripture, you will find purpose and a revitalized drive in this life.

You see God has a purpose for each and everyone us here tonight.

He has a plan of redemption that He is enacting, and like this redemption of his Nation in bondage in Egypt, God will use a man to deliver them.

So HE wants to use you to deliver our contemporaries from their bondage.

Now I know some of you are thinking how can God use me?

I am a nobody, you are a pastor, it is your job to preach this gospel, my job is to come here and sit, and listen to you teach.

Not so, you have a big role in God's overall plan, may it be in your family, your school, or your work place.

Last night, I was wrestling around with my kids on our bedroom floor.

My phone rings, it is my friend, who is a detective for the Sheriff department.

HE says hey man, sorry to call you, but I have a girl in my back seat, who is addicted to Heroin.

She is desperate here I am going to put you on speaker phone, she wants to hear how Jesus saved you from your drug addiction, so for 5-10 minutes, I preached the gospel until they pulled up to the jail.

You see my friend heeded the call that we all have.

He understood, he is not just a policeman, and then a Christian at church.

No God is working all around us, in our day to day life, and He is wanting to use you in great ways.

But sadly many will be like Moses, and just make excuse after excuse.

“Oh, I might lose my job.” God gave you that job for a reason.

For years I had a boss breathing down my neck because my co-workers were getting saved, he threatened my job, he tried to intimidate me, but I feared God more.

He never fired me, and God touched many lives.

Or maybe you say... “Oh, I don’t know enough, to share with other people.”

I can guarantee the same Holy Spirit that worked in the apostles in Acts, is still on the move today, open your mouth in faith, and you will be amazed at what is sitting in your heart.

When you start to speak, God will give you the words to say.

Or you can just do as my friend did last night, call someone who can help.

Moses here is so focused on his inabilities, he fails to understand it is God who will do the delivering, Moses will just be tool in His great work.

You too, here tonight, you are not responsible for the outcome of the deliverance and salvation of the people around you, He just wants to use you as a tool in His great work.

Look at God’s reply to Moses...

12 So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you

have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

God reminds Moses it is Him who will work, and one day the Nation will serve God on this Mountain.

13 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?"

A natural question here, every time God in the past revealed Himself to one of the patriarchs He was known by a new name, like Jehovah-Jireh, my God who provides.

**El-Shaddai.** This name means "God Almighty," the God who is all-sufficient and all-bountiful, the source of all blessings.

And many others in the book of Genesis.

So will Moses get a new revelation from the God of their Ancestors?

Let's see...

14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Now God for the first time tells His Name.

He is referred to as his title and description names throughout Genesis.

But here God declares I AM, is His Name.

There surely is more in this Name than could be brought out in our overview here tonight.

But some important things to note here, I AM is made up of four words or a tetra gram in the original language.

We today have two different ways to pronounce it, either Jehovah or Yahweh, for the sake of continuity, I use Yahweh, Jehovah is no lesser of a way.

The reason we don't know for sure how to pronounce this Holy Name, is the Jews wrote it YHWH, they never spoke it, because they believed it to be so Holy that they did not ever want to take a chance in profaning God's Name.

Even today the real pronunciation has remained obscure from humanity.

You will notice in your New King James Version the translator will from Genesis on when God's Name is pronounced they use the word LORD with all capital letters.

Still making this name obscure to this day in our modern translations.

I AM WHO I AM he declares to Moses.

This is speaking to the fact that God is.

Which Christ is the fulfillment of...

Col 1:15-18 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the

firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

God is, now this does not mean we believe in Pantheism or the doctrine that identifies God with the universe, or regards the universe as a manifestation of God.

Nature is not God, the stars at night are not God, God is the source of everything, in all things He exist, but He is Creator, not creation.

God is...

Well what does this mean for us tonight, well are you sick, well know God as healer, are you in desperate need, well know God as Provider, are you in trouble, know God as Savior.

No matter what state you find yourself in tonight, God will meet you, even if you are in the bondage of sin, know God as Redeemer, before you meet Him as Judge.

**GOD IS!**

This is the GREAT I AM, HE is not the GREAT I was, or I will be, but here now, whatever place we are in, either in time or eternity God is present in that moment.

And this omnipresent God for which the Psalmist declares in **Psalm 135:13**

**Your name, O Lord, endures forever,**

**Your fame, O Lord, throughout all generations.**

This God is who is sending Moses.

Look at verse 15...

15 Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.'

So God declares to Moses to explain who He was.

The God of their ancestors and the people of Israel, although they have been in bondage for hundreds of years and in a foreign land.

God was careful to build them within a Nation who was so racist, the Jews would never lose their identity as a people group.

And the people of Israel would know this Name, and understand that Moses was sent by their God.

Verse 16

16 Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, "I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt; 17 and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.'" 18 Then they will heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, 'The Lord God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.' 19 But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you

go, no, not even by a mighty hand. 20 So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go. 21 And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed. 22 But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."

Moses is then instructed to go to the Elders of the Nation and they will follow him.

Then they must face Pharaoh, and give their demands.

They will in the Ancient Oriental fashion of bartering ask to only 3 days into the wilderness to worship.

Had God instructed Moses to immediately ask for deliverance, the people would understand that this request would never be heard.

So the instruction is for a smaller request first.

For which God explains even at this the mighty Pharaoh will not submit to.

God gives Moses the overview, that Pharaoh will not hear this request, but only after a mighty show of force, will the gods of Egypt, and the most powerful man in the world be defeated.

And the nation of Israel will be compensated for their years of slavery, and as ridiculous as it sounds, the principalities and rulers of Egypt will be so humbled that God declares they will pay the Israelites to leave.

This just seems all too much for Moses to believe, and so he gives another excuse!

### Miraculous Signs for Pharaoh

4:1 Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you.'"

So Moses here with more excuses. He supposes here. How much of the work of God has been hindered by the supposes of doubting workers?

How many times God has wanted to do a work, and the supposers chime in?

And so much of the work of God is hindered by stuff that might happen.

I remember going to 3 services in our previous ministry.

And the many supposers speaking up, suppose we don't have enough workers, suppose no one comes, suppose we will fail?

I must admit I did a fair share of supposing within myself...

I just saw one of those supposers last weekend, and he is still supposing things, and he is missing out on what God is doing.

Now there is wisdom in planning, we cannot build a house without first getting estimates, and seeing if we can afford such an undertaking.

So with the work of God we use wisdom, but we lean more to the unseen things of faith, instead of the unseen of suppose we fail.

It was William Carey, the father of the modern missions who said Expect Great things from God, Attempt great things for God.

Now if you are going to suppose, suppose Greater things are yet to come!

Moses here is again making excuses.

And God so loving and patient, will give some signs for Moses to understand it is God working through him...

2 So the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?"

He said, "A rod."

3 And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.

You see once again we have illustrated before us the insignificance of this man Moses.

He by himself was so debilitated in his humbling time in the desert, that even this serpent God created out of his staff caused him to flee.

How could this man stand against the gods of Egypt, and the king they demonically possessed?

Surely Moses has seen a serpent in desert in his 40 years of shepherding?

Maybe it was the nature of how quickly it was done here, and speed the snake was put in front of him.

I imagine I have had many surprise encounters with critters and spiders that I am glad never got recorded.

And in moment of fear I fled.

But we see in Moses, there is no power, no magic show, this power that came from his hand was divinely given, and even though he is untrained and caught off guard here.

He is beginning to understand, the power of the One sending him.

He is starting to see; God will use whatever inanimate object He so desires for His glory.

What do you have in your hand? He asks.

This staff, Moses replied, and God said let's use that.

And if God can use that lifeless stick for His purposes, surely this failure of a man, Moses, who is living and breathing could be used...

Now many think the internet, Television, Music, or even money are of the Devil.

But these are just instruments, in the Devil's hands, these things can all in the hands of God be used for great and good purposes...

What is in your hand Christian? Well, give it to God and allow Him to use it for His Glory.

And God commands Moses, after he gains composure, to...

~~4 Then the Lord said to Moses,~~ "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), 5 "that they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

So Moses is given his first sign to perform... Verse 6...

6 Furthermore the Lord said to him, "Now put your hand in your bosom." And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow. 7 And He said, "Put your hand in your bosom again." So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence,  
For out of it spring the issues of life.

This sign here is also a message for Moses.

His bosom speaks of his inner life, and his hand will do what his heart speaks.

God wanted to use Moses hand to hold that Rod of deliverance and his hand had to be clean.

So this supernatural sign was given for the people but also as a message to this one who would lead the people.

God continues on his dialogue with Moses...

8 "Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign. 9 And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. The water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land."

So a final sign was given.

The water which brought life to this nation of Egypt, would be turned into blood, and become a putrid sign to those who would not believe.

This was a sign of judgment.

The Nile, and water source was a place of pride, and security for the people of Egypt.

The first two miracles would be signs to draw the people into the will of God, but a rejection of those two signs, would mean they would know God through a relationship of Judge, and their way of life will be met with a fierce Verdict.

Pure water, into a foul bloody work of God.

So Moses is now equipped.

I imagine after all these supernatural things happening in his otherwise predictably simple life in the desert.

Well I imagine now he will have the faith to obey, to go and face his opponent in the palace.

After-all this God of his forefathers just spoke through a bush that could not burn up, and all these amazing signs and wonders happening.

Well let's look at the confidence of Moses now!

10 Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

Moses is the pessimist of all pessimists!

He cannot find anything good in what has just taken place.

He can find no thread of faith in all that has just taken place.

He again looks to himself, instead of this Great God calling him, and sees only failure as the outcome...

Maybe you are the pessimist, well learn from Moses tonight, our God is so Big, He is so Strong, there is nothing our God cannot do.

Your pessimism is draining to the people of faith, set your eyes on Yahweh and look to the possibilities.

So Moses is not eloquent of speech, possibly he even had a stutter problem.

Before he lived his life in solitude, he was eloquent, probably a dynamic orator, but now the introvert of the Midian desert is unpracticed, and knows only sheep calls.

Verse 11

11 So the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? 12 Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

God gives a similar reply to that of Job, who are you talking too Moses.

I am God, the Creator, I made your mouth, obey me. Where were you when I fashioned the beasts of this earth, and you dare question Me?

This would be a good place to preach on humanism, but I am running out of time.

It is simple Christian, gird up your loins, and do what God has called you to do, it is not about your comforts, and discomforts, your abilities or inabilities, we complain too much, and do too little.

If I had more time I would have said that softer, as my wife often exhorts me to do...

But Moses tries to quit, before he even gets started, and sadly this is the majority of the Church today.

We want to stay in Midian, in obscurity, doing what we want, when we want, and we say....

13 ~~But he said,~~ "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send."

14 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. 15 Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. 16 So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. 17 And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs."

So Moses angers God here...

And this is a horrible start to Moses' ministry, and he will pay dearly for this later.

God wanted to use Moses, God chose Moses, not Aaron.

But Moses passed the buck to someone else.

Be careful what you ask for Christian, if God is asking you to do a bible study, do it, don't pass it off.

If He is telling you to give, don't assume someone else will.

If He is telling you to serve in Children's Ministry, don't reply "Only if, Lord."

Just do it, step out in faith.

Oh how we long to have someone serving there with us in ministry, a companion in the work God called us too.

But because of this error on Moses' part, his family will disappear into obscurity, while his brother Aaron will inherit the priestly line.

Moses because he brought his brother into the ministry, contrary to God's plan will have to watch this nation turn to idolatry as soon as they get into the wilderness.

Aaron, was not tested in the wilderness, he was not prepared like Moses.

And the nation along with Moses will pay for this error.

So now Moses with the confidence of knowing his brother will be by his side finally sets out to obey, instead of confidence in the Lord, he strength comes from his family.

### **Moses Goes to Egypt**

18 So Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, "Please let me go and return to my brethren who are in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive."

And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace."

19 Now the Lord said to Moses in Midian, "Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead." 20 Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

21 And the Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go."

22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. 23 So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.'"

24 And it came to pass on the way, at the encampment, that the Lord met him and sought to kill him. 25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son and cast it at Moses' feet, and said, "Surely you are a husband of blood to me!" 26 So He let him go. Then she said, "You are a husband of blood!" — because of the circumcision.

So Moses finally submits to God's direction, and in this patriarchal system of the day, must go ask Jethro to release him to go.

For which Jethro, perhaps understanding his daughters husband must find his own way, and must meet his own destiny.

"He cannot tend my sheep forever, this guy needs to go, and provide for himself and his families future."

The Lord told Moses there is a new Pharaoh now, and they are no longer looking for him.

So Moses perhaps for the first time is taking the lead in the family.

Zipporah as Moses wallowed in his failure, and regret, probably had to take the lead role in their household.

There is no other reason for her sons not to be circumcised.

She too was a child of Abraham, and Moses was of the Covenant People.

These boys should have been circumcised.

Moses was chosen to lead these people, but even if he was disobedient to this covenant God would not hesitate to kill him if he disobeyed.

Zipporah must have been indignant toward her husband and his God.

She was mesmerized by who she thought her husband was in the beginning, but now the letdown of her

husband's failure caused a bitterness to come upon her.

She unknowingly, because of the life Moses forced upon her, was part of her own demise.

Had she been a woman who believed in her man, perhaps Moses would have rose to the occasion ready to be all that God had purposed for him to be.

I picture his only retreat from this woman was in the wilderness with the sheep.

As the proverbs say **Prov. 19:13 And the contentions of a wife are a continual dripping.**

And only at the point of death to her husband she in an angered rage grabs a Flintstone, and says "Boys!"

And they know better than to argue with this woman who rules the household of Moses.

And she throws the foreskins down at Moses feet.

And scornfully declares you are a husband of blood.

And Moses chosen to lead this great nation, is mocked by his wife.

If Zipporah only knew what was ahead.

How Moses just needed someone to believe in him, but the years of nagging, and complaining at what a failure he was just killed his spirit.

Maybe God would not have to do so much prodding in this man if his wife just believed in him.

You ladies here tonight need to understand the power and importance of your role in your husband's life.

You are in most cases the key to his success or failure.

I have seen many men demoralized by the scornful tongue of a demeaning wife.

They are powerless to move in any direction, because wherever they go those haughty eyes look down on him, those mocking words flow from her mouth.

And it just leaves a man powerless.

On the other hand, I have seen a man, who would stop at nothing to provide for his family, because his wife said the simple words, "Thank you for all you do for this family."

This man will travel distant lands, stop at nothing, to do well for a woman who knows his potential.

My wife married me at the young age of 18.

I had absolutely nothing to offer her, in fact when she moved in with me, I only had a 12 pack of Miller High Life in the fridge.

But this young woman believed in me from day one, she knew my potential even if I did not.

She found me alone, she found me at my worse, this man here had ruined everything he touched, my former marriage, my jobs, I ruined my family ties, I had no money, and God sent this young woman full of life, who just loved me, and thought the world of me.

And from that depression of self-loathing, like Moses, I found an energy, I found a purpose, her confidence in me, made me want to be the man she thought I was.

And she never stopped, Jessica watched me make huge mistakes, and she pressed me forward, she trusted me to lead our household, and filled me with such a spirit of duty.

Lady's do not underestimate the power you have to make that man great, to empower him to lead your household.

Don't be like this woman Zipporah, for which it seems from this point, Moses sent her and the boys back home.

She could not be used in the plan of God for this man, and we don't see them again, until this ministry of deliverance is complete, when they are brought back by Jethro in the wilderness.

She could have been there with her man, watching God use them both, for this great work, but her bitterness put her on the shelf, and she falls of the pages of history into insignificance.

So Zipporah is shelved and now that the dangers are gone in Egypt, Aaron comes to get his brother...

27 And the Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and kissed him. 28 So Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord who had sent him, and

all the signs which He had commanded him. 29 Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. 30 And Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people. 31 So the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Hopelessness and travail is now turned into hope and possibility.

The people's hearts are awakened at the possibility of a Fresh Move of God.

And deliverance might just be around the corner.

Exciting things happening in Egypt for these slaves.

But God as we will see next week has more testing and preparation for this nation of slaves.

And they will be pushed into deeper trials, all the while God is working His plan of deliverance.

So we trust God, no matter how deep the valley, you have no idea the deliverance He has just around the corner...

Come up for prayer tonight if God has dealt with you on anything tonight...

If you don't know this great Deliverer yet come up tonight and call on Him, from wherever you are in life. God is... whatever you are lacking, He is the answer.

Amen?