

A Prelude to Passover

The Calling of Moses

(Exodus 3:7-10, 4:1-17)

A. His Mission Revealed (3:7-10)

⁷ The LORD said (to Moses),

“I have surely **seen** the **affliction** of **My people** who are in **Egypt**,
and have **given heed** to their **cry** because of their **taskmasters**,
for I am **aware** of their **sufferings**.

⁸ So I have **come down** to **deliver** them from the **power** of the **Egyptians**,
and to **bring them up** from that land to a **good** and **spacious land**,
to a land flowing with **milk** and **honey**, to the place of the Canaanite
and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

⁹ Now, behold, **the cry** of the **sons of Israel** has come **to Me**; furthermore,
I have **seen** the **oppression** with which the **Egyptians** are **oppressing them**.

¹⁰ Therefore, **come now**, and **I will send you** to **Pharaoh**,
so that **you** may **bring My people**, the **sons of Israel**, **out of Egypt...**”

B. His Many Fears Expressed (4:1-17)

1. A *Fear* of Rejection (4:1-9)

⁴ Then **Moses** said, “**What if** they will **not believe me** or **listen to what I say**?
For they may say, ‘**The LORD** has **not appeared to you**.’”

² **The LORD** said to him, “**What** is that in **your hand**?” And he said, “**A staff**.”

³ Then **He said**, “**Throw it** on the **ground**.” So he **threw it** on the **ground**,
and it **became a serpent**; and **Moses fled** from it.

⁴ But **the LORD** said to **Moses**, “Stretch out **your hand** and grasp *it* by **its tail**”—
so he stretched out **his hand** and **caught it**, and it **became a staff** in **his hand**—

⁵ “that **they may believe** that **the LORD**, the **God of their fathers**,
the **God of Abraham**, the **God of Isaac**, and the **God of Jacob**,
has **appeared to you**.”

⁶ **The LORD** furthermore said to him, “Now put your **hand** into **your bosom**.”
So he put **his hand** into **his bosom**, and when he took it out,
behold, **his hand** was **leprous** like snow.

⁷ Then **He** said, "Put your **hand** into **your bosom** again."
So he put his **hand** into **his bosom** again, and when he **took it out** of **his bosom**,
behold, it was restored like *the rest of his flesh*.

⁸ "If they will **not believe you** or **heed** the **witness** of the **first sign**,
they **may believe** the **witness** of the **last sign**.

⁹ But if they will **not believe** even these **two signs** or **heed** what **you say**,
then you shall take **some water** from the **Nile** and **pour it** on the **dry ground**;
and the **water** which you take from the **Nile** will **become blood** on the **dry ground**."

2. A *Fear* of Inadequacy (4:10-13)

¹⁰ Then **Moses** said to **the LORD**, "**Please, Lord**, I have *never* been eloquent,
neither **recently** nor in **time past**, nor since **You** have **spoken** to **Your servant**;
for I am **slow of speech** and **slow of tongue**."

¹¹ **The LORD** said to him, "**Who** has *made* **man's mouth**?
Or **who makes him** mute or deaf, or **seeing** or **blind**? Is it not I, **the LORD**?

¹² Now then **go**, and **I, even I**, will **be** with **your mouth**,
and *teach you* what you are **to say**."

¹³ But **he said**, "**Please, Lord**, now send *the message* by whomever You will."

3. A *Friend* and Spokesperson to Assist Moses (4:14-17)

¹⁴ Then the **anger** of **the LORD** **burned against Moses**, and **He said**,
"Is there not your **brother Aaron** the **Levite**? I know that **he speaks fluently**."

And moreover, behold, **he** is coming out to **meet you**;
when he **sees you**, he will be glad in **his heart**.

¹⁵ **You** are to **speak to him** and **put** the **words** in **his mouth**; and **I, even I**,
will be with **your mouth** and **his mouth**, and **I will teach you** what you are **to do**.

¹⁶ Moreover, he shall **speak for you** to **the people**;
and he will be as a mouth for **you** and **you** will be as God to him.

¹⁷ **You** shall take in **your hand** this **staff**, with which **you** shall **perform the signs**."

Message Summary

Moses' *Fears*.....God's *Response*

1. Moses' *Fear*→ Rejection...

"What if they will not believe me or listen to what I say?"
For they may say, "The LORD has not appeared to you." (4:1)

God's Response→ He promises to establish Moses' authority, and then *reassures* him with **three signs** of His power

2. Moses' *Fear*→ Personal Inadequacy...

"Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither **recently** nor in time **past**, nor since **You** have spoken to **Your servant**; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." (4:10)

God's Response→ He *would* make Moses adequate for the task

Now then **go**, and **I, even I**, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are **to say**." (4:12)

3. Moses's continued *Reluctance*→...

But he (**Moses**) said,
"Please, Lord, now **send the message** by whomever **You will**." (4:13)

God's Response→ He would **provide** for Moses a spokesman and companion—Aaron the Levite

"Is there not your brother **Aaron the Levite**? I know that he **speaks fluently**...

You are to **speak to him** and **put the words** in his **mouth**; and **I, even I**, will be with **your mouth** and **his mouth**, and **I will teach** you what you are **to do**.

Moreover, **he** shall speak for you to the **people**; and **he** will be as a mouth for **you** and **you** will be as God to **him**. (4:14b-16)

Personal Application

Like Moses, *we too* may have similar *Fears* with regard to our **Ministry Calling**—However, like **He** did with Moses, **God assures us** of His Presence and Power

1. Like Moses, *we* may fear Rejection, but **God promises** to *establish* our witness and testimony through His Spirit and Power.

The LORD is **my light** and **my salvation**; Whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the **defense** of my life; Whom shall I dread? (Psalm 27:1)

but **you (disciples)** will receive power when the **Holy Spirit** has come **upon you**; and **you** shall be My witnesses both in **Jerusalem**, and in **all Judea** and **Samaria**, and even to the remotest part of the **earth**." (Acts 1:8)

I (Paul) was with you in **weakness** and in **fear** and in **much trembling**,
and my **message** and my **preaching** were **not** in *persuasive words* of wisdom,
but in **demonstration** of the **Spirit** and of **power**,

so that **your faith** would **not** rest on the **wisdom of men**,
but on the **power of God**. (I Corinthians 2:3-5)

2. Like **Moses**, *we* may have **fears** of **Inadequacy**, but **God** has
promised to make us **adequate**, and **able** to **accomplish** what **He** has
called us as **believers** to do.

and **you (disciples)** will even be brought before **governors** and **kings** for **My sake**,..

But when they **hand you over**, do **not** worry about **how** or **what** you are **to say**;
for it will be **given you** in **that hour** what **you** are **to say**.

For it is **not you** who **speak**, but *it is* the **Spirit** of **your Father**
who **speaks in you**. (Matthew 10:18-20)

Not that **we (Paul and Timothy)** are **adequate** in **ourselves** to consider anything
as *coming* from **ourselves**, but **our adequacy** is from **God**,

who also **made us adequate** as **servants** of a **new covenant**,
not of the **letter** but of the **Spirit**; for the **letter kills**,
but the **Spirit gives life**. (II Corinthians 3:5-6)

And **God is able** to make **all grace** abound **to you**,
so that always having **all sufficiency** in everything,
you may have an **abundance** for **every good deed**; (II Corinthians 9:8)

3. Like **Moses**, *our fears* may be such that we want **God** to **call someone**
else instead. As **believers**, **God** has **given us** a “**Helper**,” who *indwells*
us, *teaches us*, and *strengthens us* for **service** (Acts 1:8). **The Lord** also
declares that **He** will “**never leave us nor forsake us**” (Hebrews 13:5).

I (Jesus) will ask the **Father**, and **He** will **give you another Helper**,
that **He** may be **with you forever**; *that is* the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world
cannot receive, because it does **not see Him** or **know Him**,
but you know Him because **He abides with you** and will be **in you**.

“I will **not** leave you as **orphans**; I will come to **you**. (John 14:16-18)

At my **first defense** *no one supported me* (Paul), but **all deserted me**;
may it **not** be counted against them.

But the **Lord stood with me** and **strengthened me**,
so that **through me** the **proclamation** might be **fully accomplished**,
and that all the **Gentiles** might hear;
and I was **rescued out** of the **lion's mouth**. (II Timothy 4:16-17)

Closing Comments