



## They Won't Believe Me

Adapted from "5 Excuses of Moses" series by Dennis Marquardt

Over the years, people have been asked to do some unbelievable things. Consider this story from retired firefighter Tom Sember:

The fire chief had asked me to inform the men that we needed to go out and shovel fire hydrants. It had snowed over two feet the night before and many of the city's hydrants had been covered by the snow or while the snowplows cleared the streets. The need for the hydrants to be open was an important job that needed to be done. The fire department had to have access to the water in order to be able to use the water for putting out fires. Recently, being appointed to lieutenant, I was not sure if the men would believe me when I told them we needed to get out on the street and shovel those hydrants. I told the chief my fear about the men not believing me and the chief replied, "You tell them the order came from me!" (personal communication, May 15, 2017).

Do you ever felt that you did not measure up to what God is asking of you? Perhaps you think of many excuses why you would not be able to accomplish the task that God has asked of you. Allow this lesson to help you come to terms with the idea that no matter who believes you, if God asks you to do something then whatever He asks you to do should be attempted.

## COURAGE

**C1:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

**Exodus 4:1–9 (ESV)** Then Moses answered, “But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you.’” The LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.” And he said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. But the LORD said to Moses, Put out your hand and catch it by the tail”—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand— “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.” Again, the LORD said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. Then God said, “Put your hand back inside your cloak.” So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. “If they will not believe you,” God said, “or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign. If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

When God asked Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let God's people go, Moses used the excuse “they won't believe me.”

- Discuss or write down a time you have used the excuse of “they won't believe me” in your response to God.
- Discuss or write down a time you used the excuse “they won't believe me” to keep from accomplishing what God has asked you to do?
- Have you ever felt that people will not believe you when you share the things of God? Describe this experience. What were your thoughts and feelings?
- Was there ever a time when you did not believe that God believed in you? Describe this time in your life. What were your thoughts and feelings?

**C2:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

**Exodus 4:10–12 (ESV)** But Moses said to the LORD, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” Then the LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.”

When God asked Moses to go before Pharaoh, Moses not only used “they won’t believe me,” he also used “but I’m not eloquent.”

- Describe a time in your life when you used the excuse that you did not have the ability to do what God had asked you or is asking you to do?
- Have you ever used the excuse of not knowing as the reason for not doing?
- What courage does it take to believe that God has equipped you with all that you need to do what He asks of you?
- Share a time when you did not think you knew how to do something and yet tried it anyway.

## STRENGTH

**S1:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

### **Exodus 4:1–9 (ESV)**

- How do you find the courage in Christ, to do the things God has asked of you?
- When has your own unbelief kept you from experiencing all that God has for you?
- When you share the gospel of Jesus Christ, do you truly believe that it is God who is sending you?

**S2:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

### **Exodus 4:10–12 (ESV)**

- Finding strength in Christ, how does not knowing allow God to work in your life?
- Most men feel that they are not qualified to do the job God is asking of them. What do you feel are your inadequacies and how can God help in those areas?
- Getting together with other men, to discuss our shortcomings, is a way to advance and learn, how do you find the strength in Christ to be honest with our fears?

## ENDURANCE

**E1:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

### **Exodus 4:1–9 (ESV)**

- How can you focus on not using excuses in fulfilling God's plan?
- How important is your belief in the power of the Holy Spirit regarding stepping out in faith?
- What if God asked you to perform a miracle? Where would your focus be, on Him or yourself?

**E2:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

### **Exodus 4:10–12 (ESV)**

- Moses focused on what he could not do, but God focus was on what He could do through Moses. What seems to hold your focus as you strive to be man of God?
- How does focusing more on the things of God rather than focusing on yourself help you in fulfilling the Great Commission? (Matthew 28:19-20)
- The Lord asked Moses a few questions in Exodus 4:11. Then God told him to go. Discuss how you would answer those questions and how you would respond when God says go.