

The LORD Who Calls and Supplies (Ex 3:1-14)

INTRODUCTION: ALONE, resources // Responsibilities, parenting, career, growing in your faith, sharing your faith,

[Prop]: The resources you need to fulfill your calling (purpose) are found in God, not in you

First,

I. When the LORD encounters people, he calls them to his purposes

-Moses has been in Midian for forty years shepherding his FIL's flock, he goes to Horeb (Sinai)

A. The LORD encounters Moses

- Angel of the LORD appears in burn bush, v. 2 / Moses goes to see, v. 3

Application: Having heard, seen, or experienced something of the things of God—are you drawing near to God?

-v. 4 – We discover it is not just an angel but the LORD himself who is present in the bush and calls to Moses.

- Angel of the LORD & YHWH are closely identified (cf. Joshua 6)

B. God calls Moses

-we'll come back to the convo at the burning bush, but look at v. 10:

Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.

-This pattern is repeated throughout the Bible, God encounters people calls them to his purposes **Isaiah 6, Acts 9**

-Not just prophets and apostles, people of God **Ex 19 / 1 Pet 2**

-In fact, HS in **Acts** is poured out for the calling/purpose of mission

Illustration: My encounter/calling

Application: How has God called you: Not necessarily vocational ministry, but all are called to fight sin, deny ourselves, pursue communion with God, serve others, make disciples

CS Lewis: I think I can understand that feeling about a housewife's work being like that of Sisyphus (who was the stone

rolling gentleman). But it is surely, in reality, the most important work in the world. What do ships, railways, mines, cars, government etc exist for except that people may be fed, warmed, and safe in their own homes?

-we can add to this discipling children

When God encounters people, he calls them into his purposes.

II. The resources we need to fulfill our calling(s) are in God, not us

A. The resources are not in us

-You see this is how Moses responds to God throughout this episode, in our verses and through **4:17**

-There are many reasons from Moses's perspective that he is the wrong guy for the job:

- He's a nobody (v. 11)
- Moses is not sure he believes or the people believe that the LORD is able to do this (name, v. 13)
- he people won't believe Moses has actually had this encounter (**4:1**),
- Moses is not eloquent – perhaps with a speech impediment of some kind (**4:10-11**)
- Moses comes out and says it (**4:13**), *“Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.”*

APPLICATION: Do you ever feel that way? The job is just too big, you're not up to it, therefore God must use someone else?

-“God doesn't give us more than we can handle” **YES HE DOES!**

ILLUSTRATION: [Sharon Betters](#) (2 Cor 1:8-10)

B. We find what we need to fulfill our calling in God

-v. 11-12, Moses says he's a nobody (I, I), but God promises to be with him, and emphasizes that **He** is the one who sent Moses

John Durham, Exodus: *Who Moses is is not the question; it is rather, who is with Moses?*

-put your own name in that sentence

II. The resources we have in God

- v. 13, “**name**” in the ancient world = character, identity, essence
- Durham’s translation “What can He do?” (Hebrew “what” not “who”)
- v. 14, “I Am what I Am”, this is a Hebrew pun on the full name Yahweh (all caps LORD) – it sounds/spelled similar, “I Am” (v. 15)
- “I Am” means that the LORD is totally self-sufficient, no thing nor person makes him God, he is neither increased nor diminished by anything that happens in the world, he is the God who IS
- The bush not being consumed is suggestive of this as well, the first of God’s presence doesn’t require fuel
- he perfectly and fully *is* by nature all that Scripture describes him to be (good, true, just, etc.). He will not become more or less gracious, more or less true.
- Moreover, he *IS* the source of all beauty, goodness, truth, and life

Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153, Benedictine): If you have said of God that he is good, great, blessed, wise or any other such quality it is summed up in a single word: he is (Est).

-This passage tells us that this God, the “I Am,” blesses his people in four ways out of his infinite goodness.

A. *God’s presence*

- v. 8, he has come to deliver his people, and bring them up to the land flowing with milk and honey
- v. 12, He promises to be with Moses as he sends him to Pharaoh
- v. 18, he’s going to meet with his people
- God’s presence comforts and guides his people from Egypt to Canaan
- Great Commission promise **Matthew 28:20**

Secondly,

B. *God’s power*

- v. 8, 17 – “I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt”
- v. 19-20, “mighty hand,” strike Egypt, “all the wonders I will do in it”
- God still does wonders: he brings dead sinners to life through faith in Jesus, he gives courage to risk for our faith, sustains faith under unspeakable suffering, and triumphs over the powers/princip

Third,

C. *God’s gifts*

- v. 22, “plunder the Egyptians,” material blessings // favor to Israel
- 4:1-9, the signs, things Moses and the people can see to confirm Word
- 4:10-17, Aaron, partner in the work
- Gifts that give Moses and the people assurance of his commitment to them, making real to them those things which they have received by faith
- Application:** If you are struggling in your calling: (making disciples, parenting, fighting sin) God has a gift for you this morning – the Table
- we come in faith (weak as it may be) and he promises to strengthen and nourish us for the journey to the promised land.

Finally,

D. *God’s grace*

- v. 1 reminds us that Moses was in Midian, in the wilderness – he murdered an Egyptian and had to flee for his life
- v. 4-5, God is holy, Moses is decidedly not, and yet God pursues him, meets him at the BB, calls him by name
- this book shows us the God who hears the cry of his people (v. 9) and sees what has been done to them (v. 16)
- v. 7, summary of the Gospel
- John 1:14**, full of *grace* and truth, v. 15, grace upon grace
- In all of our sin, and all the ways we have been sinned against, God pours out a fountain of grace for forgiveness and healing through faith
- take heart, trust in him, receive his goodness

1. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore;
Bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore.

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