

Showdown in Egypt Part 7 *Excuses and Weird Signs*

Message to Conversation Guide

Exodus 3:11-22

11 **But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”**

12 **And God said, “I will be with you.** And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

13 Moses said to God, **“Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’** Then what shall I tell them?”

14 God said to Moses, **“I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”**

15 God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the 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, the name you shall call me from generation to generation. NIV

Exodus 4:1-17

1 Moses answered, **“What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you’?”**

2 Then the Lord said to him, **“What is that in your hand?”**
“A staff,” he replied.

3 **The Lord said, “Throw it on the ground.”**

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. 4 Then the Lord said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. 5 “This,” said the Lord, “is so 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 Then the Lord said, **“Put your hand inside your cloak.” So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous —it had become as white as snow.**

7 **“Now put it back into your cloak,” he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.**

8 Then the Lord said, “If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second. 9 But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground.”

10 Moses said to the Lord, **“Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”**

11 The Lord said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

13 But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.”

14 Then the Lord’s anger burned against Moses and he said, “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. 15 You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. 16 He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him.

17 But take this staff in your hand to perform the signs with it.”

Discussion Questions

1. Moses had a lot of pushback to the Lord on going to Egypt. Discuss the fact that we can honestly discuss what we think with the Lord. Do these passages in Exodus confirm that God welcomes honest dialogue?
2. Discuss situations where you have been less than honest with people and how you have gone along with things you didn’t want to do. How does Moses’ response to God demonstrate the value of being candid even with God?

Matthew 5:37

37 All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ anything beyond this comes from the evil one. NIV

3. Explore the concept in the sermon that honesty fosters intimacy in relationships while secrets diminish close relationships. How does this principle relate to our relationship with God and each other?
4. Moses’ excuses for not wanting to go to Egypt range from lack of confidence (who am I) to not being sure if he could persuade the people to believe he was sent from God. Finally, he asks God to send someone else, which provokes God’s displeasure toward Moses. What is the difference between dialoguing with God about his will and refusing to do his will? Discuss how the word “no” and “Lord” cannot be present in the same sentence.

Acts 10:13-14

13 Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.”

14 “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.” NIV

5. When God spoke to Moses about his name, "I am that I am," Moses saw God's eternal nature and unlimited power. How does this help prepare him for his mission to liberate the people in Egypt?