

50+ Class – All Saints Presbyterian Church
Winter-Spring 2021
The Life of Moses
Week 6 – *But Lord!*

Exodus

3:¹¹ But Moses said to God, “**Who am I** that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹² He said, “**But I will be with you**, and this shall be the **sign for you**, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

¹³ Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ **what shall I say to them?**” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘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, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. ¹⁶ Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, “I have **observed** you and what has been done to you in Egypt, ¹⁷ and I **promise** that I will **bring you up out** of the affliction of Egypt **to the land** of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.”’ ¹⁸ And **they will listen** to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.’ ¹⁹ But **I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless** compelled by a mighty hand. ²⁰ **So I will** stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; **after that he will let you go.** ²¹ And **I will give this people favor** in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty, ²² but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.”

4:¹ 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.’” ² The LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “**A staff.**” ³ 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. ⁴ 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— 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 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ “If they will not believe you,” God said, “or listen to the first **sign**, they may believe the latter sign. ⁹ 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.”

¹⁰ 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.” ¹¹ 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? ¹² **Now therefore go**, and I will be **with your** mouth and **teach you** what you shall speak.” ¹³ But he said, “Oh, my Lord, please **send someone else.**” ¹⁴ Then the **anger** of the LORD was **kindled** against Moses and he said, “Is there not **Aaron**, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. ¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and **I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both** what to do. ¹⁶ He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. ¹⁷ And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs.”

Persistent Excuses of Moses

→ Patient Responses of God

1 – Inadequacy (3.11)—*Who am I?*

→ Adequacy+ (3.12)—*but I will be with you*

Moses was looking at the insufficiency of himself instead of the sufficiency of God.

2 – Inability (3.13)—*I don't know your name*

→ Ability+ (3.14)—... *I AM WHO I AM*

(3.17)—*I promise I will bring you up out of affliction ... to the land ...*

God is a Promise-Keeper of both Deliverance and Inheritance.

(3.18-20)—*they will listen ... But I know the king will not let you go unless ... So I will stretch out my hand and... strike Egypt ... after that he will let you go.*

God has Foreknowledge and Power.

(3.21-22)—*I will give this people favor...and when you go...you shall plunder...*

God brings victory and can transform hearts to make hated people avored

3 – Ineffective (4.1)—*They won't believe me*

→ Effective Signs—(4.2-4) Staff→Snake. (4.6-7) Leprous→Healed. (4.9) Nile→Blood.

4 – Incompetent (4.10)—*I can't speak/communicate well.*

→ Competency+ (4.11-12) *I will ... teach you what to say. (4.14-17) Aaron + Me!*

It isn't Moses' incompetence, or Aaron's competence, but God's Omnicompetence that's decisive.

God understands our frailties and responds with the provision needed that shows our weakness and magnifies His grace.

(4.12)—*Now go...and I will be with you...*

God calls us to faithful obedience, and to leave the success to Him.

The Result:

Inescapable Surrender (4.13)—*Avoidance (anyone else)→ Acquiescence (have it your way)*

Christian service begins in God's presence. We must come in before we go out.

Q & A / Discussion

Next Week: *Back to Egypt – Exodus 4*