

May 15th

WILL GOD'S PEOPLE LISTEN?

"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." EXODUS 4:1-3

430 years is a long time. Generations were born, lived, worked, and died as slaves. Was God listening? Was God seeing their suffering? Did God see male babies being thrown into the Nile to drown? Where was God? Put yourself in the place of the Hebrews. How would you have approached God? Think of it this way: our country will celebrate 250 years of independence from England this July. Now add another 180 years to that number. Do you get the picture of tyranny, sadness and oppression now? This is what Moses is coming back to. The God who called Abraham will now call His people out of Egypt. But will anyone listen to Moses? That's his concern and probably would have been our concern if we were in his sandals. What does God teach Moses and teach us here?

Moses has a key concern here. He already tried to deliver the people on his own and that ended up in disaster. The Hebrew people didn't appreciate His position that He gave up in Pharaoh's court. Why would they listen to him now? It's been 40 years since he last saw them. A lot can change in 40 years. Slavery was a deadly vocation, many of them had probably died since Moses last was in Egypt. There doesn't seem to be much hope here for Moses or the people. But God. God gives Moses three signs: the staff/snake, clean skin/leprosy, and pure water/blood. God gives Moses three signs because each sign may not be enough to convince the Hebrews that God was going to finally rescue them. Did the signs work? Were they even needed? Moses doesn't need to convince Aaron because God appeared to Aaron and told him Moses was returning to Egypt. However, the people are a different story. Verse 29 and 30 describe it like this: "Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people." Aaron shares with the people what God had said to Moses...and showed them the three signs to confirm that God had spoken to Moses. It's apparent from this statement that Moses was right to be skeptical of the people. They didn't listen at first. They needed the signs.

Men, are we really any different from the Hebrew people? We crave God to show up in our lives. We embrace experience much more than truth. When we feel close with God, it's much easier for us to follow Him. However, when suffering and struggle come, we start doubting God's good plan for our lives. It happens so quickly. The Hebrews had spent generations seeing the false idols of the Egyptians. They didn't believe that God had finally heard them. Abraham was just a distant memory. But God. God showed them that His promises are always true despite what they felt or thought. Men, it's no different with you. God calls you to follow, even when you can't see him clearly. Are you in a desert with God, a wilderness of spiritual dryness? God is your Shepherd. Are you in a place of doubt and disappointment? God is your Shepherd. God leads us as men to all the places that we find ourselves in: joy and happiness, sadness and complaint. The question for you is God's Word enough for you? God has revealed Himself to you. His Word is enough. Will you be like a tree planted by the river?

Spend some time praising God for His Word that was given to remind you of His perfect character and true promises.

For Further Reading: Psalm 1