

June 11th

I CAN'T TALK TO THESE PEOPLE!

"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?" **EXODUS 4:10-11**

Excuses, excuses, excuses. When we are younger and learning good manners from our parents, we learn to ask to be excused from the dinner table when we are finished, rather than bolting to play outside while everyone is still eating. You may have been told by your mother and father that you had to finish what was on your plate before being excused. Did you ever connect these "manners" with how we approach God? When God places calls on our lives, we can become good at asking to be excused. Except this time, it's not a good thing. We ask to be excused because of our fear, or discomfort, or having hard hearts. We want to avoid God's invitation to serve Him. And it's no different with Moses here at the burning bush. Think about it. Moses always wanted to see God deliver His people from Egypt. He even tried to be the "insider spy" that would help deliver them, but he failed and had to run across the desert. Fast forward forty years. Now God gives the greatest message He could possibly give. I have seen their affliction. I will deliver them out of Egypt. Imagine Moses jumping up and down, excited that His people would finally be free from Egypt's tyranny. Except there's a catch. God is going to use Moses to lead them out. Now imagine Moses' excitement changing to utter anxiety and terror. Me God? Why me? I can't speak...and I've never been able to speak! What does God have to teach us here through God's interaction with Moses?

Look back over Moses' conversation with God in chapters 3 and 4. What do you notice about how God answers every objection and statement by Moses? You see, it was never about Moses. God always brings the strength and power. God always gives the tools for the trade. He equips the called. It's no different with Moses. How does God respond to his foolish objection? He asks Moses a few simple questions: "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?" It's all rhetorical with God here at the burning bush. God's not looking for Moses to answer but is instead teaching Moses an important lesson. God creates the mouth and can do anything with the mouth that He wants to! We will learn later in the book of Numbers how God opens a donkey's mouth to speak. If God can do that, he certainly can open Moses' mouth. Moses is preoccupied with his stutter, something that apparently plagued him even when he lived with the Egyptians. He can't stop looking at himself. Even after God speaks, Moses still asks God to send someone else. He can't bring himself to believe that He can do what God is calling him to do.

Men, is it any different with us? Sure, we have artificial intelligence, computers, and cars, but our excuses we give to God haven't stopped...and God's calls for us today don't stop either. For such a time as this God has called you to be His shepherd who will shepherd others. Oh sure, it may not mean that you get in front of a group of people to speak to them about God's glory. But it does mean that you serve Him exactly where He has placed you. You see, God calls you to be His servant in this grand moment that He has given you. And these moments are grand not because of the amount of people that are watching you and listening to you, but because your grand God has created you for this moment. He has made you for such a time as this. It may mean a simple prayer for someone else. It may mean sharing your testimony. It may mean correcting a wrongdoing. Whatever it is, be confident of this: God continues to give them to you. And the same God who said that He will be with Moses' mouth will also be with your mouth. Be encouraged today that God will give you exactly what you need to fulfill His purposes, nothing more and nothing less. What a God that we serve!

Spend some time asking God for help to trust Him to help you where He has placed you today.

For Further Reading: Exodus 4:1-17

