Moses
Part 6

Exodus 4 NIV
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 so you can perform the signs with it.”

- Moses is finally done with excuses and shows his heart. He would much rather God send someone else. His problem wasn’t a lack of ability; it was a lack of willingness.

- As easy as it is to point the finger at Moses, I believe this kind of back and forth reluctance and unwillingness is probably what God deals with, with many of us. Moses’s account just happens to be highlighted for generations to see.

Question: How many times have we banter back and forth with the Lord when He speaks to us about doing something?

- For this reason, anytime I approach someone about a ministry, I will almost always tell them “Don’t give me an answer today, please pray about it, think about it and let me know later.”

- Bottom Line: Moses struggled with the call, but yielded himself to the Lord. He didn’t walk away telling God no, he surrendered himself to the call…

Reminds me of the Parable Jesus shared in
Matthew 21 NIV
28 “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

29 “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

30 “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

31 “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

- Moses is much like the son who was initially unwilling to serve, “but later changed his mind and went”.

- Because Moses was initially unwilling to do what God was asking, the Lord provides an exception or comfort to Moses by including Aaron.

Vs. 14,15
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…

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.

- In light of the whole story I believe its clear that Moses would have been better to trust the Lord’s original plan, rather than to require the concession of Aaron’s help. This ultimately lead to some trouble Moses as Aaron will later prove to be a problem.

1. Aaron will later instigate the worship of the golden calf, fashioning the calf himself and building the altar himself (Exodus 32:1-6).

2. Aaron's sons blasphemed God with impure offerings (Leviticus 10:1-7).
3. In (Numbers 12:1-8) Aaron with Miriam come against Moses and speak against him.

The Take Away: God will sometimes allow you to have it your way, to later allow you to realize that His way is the best way…

Vs. 18

Then Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, "Let me return to my own people in Egypt to see if any of them are still alive."

Jethro said, "Go, and I wish you well."

"Did Moses have any idea what he was getting into when he agreed to take the LORD's call? Could he see the Egyptian army closing in, and God parting the Red Sea through Moses' hand? Could he see the song of victory, the water from the rock, the manna from heaven, the battles won through prayer? Could he see the vision of God on Mount Sinai, the voice of God from heaven, the tablets of stone, the golden calf? Could he see the tabernacle built, the priests consecrated? Could he see the spies sent forth into Canaan, the response of unbelief, and a thirty-eight-year sentence to wander in the wilderness? Could he see a lonely climb to the top of Mount Pisgah, where he would die looking out over the promised land? Could he see the honor of sitting beside the LORD on the Mount of Transfiguration? Did Moses have any idea what he was getting into?" **(Guzik)**

- **When the fire faded from the burning bush and the voice of God was silent across the desert, the only thing left for Moses to do was obey what God told him to do. How many have had a burning bush type experience only to later go on as if nothing really happened?**

- I love that Vs. 18 says "Jethro said, "Go, and I wish you well.""

- May this be a reminder that in the journey of obeying God there will be those who ask you why, there will definitely be those who oppose you and do whatever possible to stop you. But my prayer is that you find your Jethro's who will say to you "Go, I wish you well."

Vs. 19-23

19 Now the Lord had said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all those who wanted to kill you are dead." **20** So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey and started back to Egypt. And he took the staff of God in his hand.

21 The Lord said to Moses, "When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. **22** Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son, **23** and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me." But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.'"

- The coast is clear in a sense for Moses to return to Egypt. Much like it was with Joseph, Mary and Jesus when they returned from Egypt after Herod death.

- Moses on his journey takes those things that mean the most to him, and that bring him comfort; His wife, sons and that familiar staff. This is pretty much all he has.

- In Vs 22, 23 - Long before the Passover, we see God's prophetic warning to Moses about Pharaoh. God likens Israel to his first born and warns that if Pharaoh doesn't let his first born go; God will not let his first born son go either.

- It's interesting how God looks over his people with such care. We see this in the NT also when Jesus speaks to Saul in Acts 9 about the church when he says; "Saul, Saul why do you persecute me" speaking to Paul's persecution of the church.

God warns Moses of the condition of Pharaoh's heart:
- In Exodus 4:12 - it says that God hardened Pharaoh heart.
- In Exodus 4:21 - it says that Pharaoh hardened his own heart.
- In Exodus 8:15 - it says simply that Pharaoh's heart was hardened.

"Who really hardened Pharaoh's heart? We might say that it was both God and Pharaoh; but whenever God hardened Pharaoh's heart, He never did it against Pharaoh's will. Pharaoh never said, "Oh, I want to do what is good and right and I want to bless the people of Israel" and God answered, "No, for I will harden your heart against them!" When God hardened, He allowed Pharaoh's heart to do what Pharaoh wanted to do – God gave Pharaoh over." **(Guzik)**

- This hardening of the heart is much like what the Apostle Paul warns about in Romans 1.

Romans 1 NIV
18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the
godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by
their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to

them, because God has made it plain to them. 20For since the creation of the world God's invisible attributes—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. 21For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

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24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

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28 …so God gave them over to a depraved mind…

Vs. 24-31

24 At a lodging place on the way, the Lord met Moses and was about to kill him. **25** But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it. "Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me," she said. **26** So the Lord let him alone. (At that time she said "bridegroom of blood," referring to circumcision.)

This is what I would consider God's 2nd Major Lesson to Moses.

The First being at the Burning Bush when the Lord says to Moses, "Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." **(Exodus 3:5)**

Now the Second is here where Moses had failed to circumcise his son, which broke the sign of the Abrahamic covenant.

- It seems obvious that Zipporah objected to this new idea of circumcision. She was not an Israelite and may have seen it as a barbaric custom. None the less, God did not relent and held Moses accountable for neglecting what he knew was right, even though his wife didn't seem to understand.

"Some wonder why Moses' wife seems so bitter here. Perhaps for the first time she recognized the serious nature of her husband's call and how important it was for their whole family to walk in the ways of the LORD." **(Guzik)**

- One thing this text makes clear is that God is serious; and he is serious about our spiritual condition and the spiritual condition of our home…

The text says in Vs. 24 "the Lord met Moses and was about to kill him."

- I'm thankful this is the only time that God almost killed Moses. God spared Moses because he and his household repented. They turned from their neglectful disobedience and found God's mercy instead of his judgment. **Vs. 26** "So the Lord let him alone."

OT circumcision speaks to a couple of things:

- **First -** Those who belong to the Lord are called and expected by God to be different from this world. Zipporah was not an Israelite and did not understand circumcision like Moses did. It was Moses's job to lead his family in honoring the Lord.

- **Second** - Circumcision has to do with the cutting away of the flesh. The Apostle Paul makes it clear in Romans 2 that we are no longer made right with God through OT circumcision, but the circumcision we experience is by the Holy Spirit and it is a circumcision of the heart.

Romans 2 NIV
28 A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. **29** No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code.

1 John 1:5-7 NIV
5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:
God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we claim to have
fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live
out the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have
fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies
us from all sin.

Ephesians 5:10-12 NIV
10 and find out what pleases the Lord. **11** Have nothing to do with the
fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. **12** It is shameful
even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

Vs. 27-31
27 The Lord said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So
he met Moses at the mountain of God and kissed him. **28** Then Moses
told Aaron everything the Lord had sent him to say, and also about all
the signs he had commanded him to perform.

29 Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites,
30 and Aaron told them everything the Lord had said to Moses. He
also performed the signs before the people, **31** and they believed. And
when they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had
seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

God confirms his words to Moses:

1. Aaron meets meets up with Moses, just like God said he would.

2. Moses and Aaron met with the elders of Israel, they told them everything God said, showed them the signs God gave Moses and they believed, just like God said they would.

Vs. 31 … And when they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

An amazing thing happened when the people of Israel heard that God was concerned about them and had seen their misery… They bowed down and worshiped.

This is still true today and you can tell in a Worship Service those who have experienced the Love and Mercy of God… They bow down and worship.

Much like the woman who washed the feet of Jesus didn't care about those who criticized how she worshipped Jesus. When your life has been restored because God loves you enough to show up in your life, you will worship like the leaders of Israel. They worshipped because they had a revelation of the Love of God…

Jesus said about the Sinful Woman who was forgiven
Luke 7:47
Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

The one who is forgiven much, they love much…
The one who is forgiven little, they love little…

I pray that for every person here… May we have the kind of encounter with God's Love and Mercy that transforms our understanding of God like it did for that Woman and the Elders of Israel …