

Exodus 4

Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say

- **40 years after VIP Egypt**
 1. Moses tending sheep in wilderness of Midian
 2. Moses married: Wife Zipporah/ father-in-Law Jethro
 3. Moses meets "the Angel of the Lord" Jesus at Burning Bush; **The Great I AM**
 4. Moses commissioned on the Mountain of God to deliver God's people from Egypt

Exodus 3:18 ...you shall say to [Pharaoh], 'The Lord God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.'¹⁹ But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. ²⁰ So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.

- **Pharaoh will not listen to words**
- **Pharaoh will listen after personal pain**
 1. He will let the people go
 2. Egyptians will be happy your leaving
 3. They will even give you gifts...
 4. Afterward I will bring you back to this mountain

The time is now to deliver your people out of slavery from the most powerful nation on earth

The time is now to learn how to trust God...how to exercise your faith

Esther 4:14 [Esther asked to deliver her people] For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom **for such a time as this?"**

I. Moses Unbelief/Gods Longsuffering

1 Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, '**The Lord has not appeared to you.**'"

- **Suppose:** First instinct to question God *as if He doesn't know*

1 Corinthians 5:7 ... we walk by faith, not by sight.

- Where God guides...God provides
- Suppose the Israelites will not believe? God begins gently...

2 So the Lord said to [Moses], "What is that in your hand?" [Moses] said, "A rod." 3 And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. 4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand)

- **Use what is in your hand:**
 1. Moses time as Shepherd in Midian not wasted
 2. God uses our past experiences good/bad for His glory

Power over the Devil

- **Sign:** Wooden stick becomes a serpent/Moses grabs tail/back to stick
- **God's power to do as He will with the Serpent...**

Satan is not an equal opposite to God...at all

1 John 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome [Spirit of Antichrist], because He who is in you [God] is greater than he who is in the world [Devil/Serpent].

Revelation 12:9 ...the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 20:2 [An angel]... laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years...

1 John 3:8 ... for this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

John 12: 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

John 16:11 [Holy Spirit will convict the world] of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

- Satan imprisons men; sets bonds on humanity as Egyptians enslave the Israelites

God gives Moses a sign symbolizing **God's victory over the oppressor**

Luke 11:15 [Some said of Jesus] "[Jesus] casts out demons by Beelzebub [Lord of Flies], the ruler of the demons."... 17 But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls. 18 If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub. 19 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. 20 But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

- **Sign:** Turn the stick into a Serpent...

...5 **"that they may believe** that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

Do this that they may believe you are God's man

- **If the Israelites don't listen:**
 1. Throw your staff on the ground and it will turn into a snake
 2. Grab the snake by the tail [most dangerous] and turn back to staff

6 Furthermore the Lord said to him, "Now put your hand in your bosom." And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow. 7 And He said, "Put your hand in your bosom again." So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh. 8 "Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign.

Power over the Sin

- **Lepers:** Untouchables
 1. Begins with an itch
 2. Followed by pain
 3. Next numbness
 4. Then dirty sores and ulcers appear...

The skin, especially around the eyes and ears, begins to bunch, with deep furrows between the swellings, so that the face of the afflicted individual begins to resemble that of a lion. Fingers drop off or are absorbed; toes are affected the same. His throat becomes hoarse, and you can now not only see, feel, and smell the leper, but you can hear his rasping voice. And if you stay with him for some time, you can even imagine a peculiar taste in your mouth, probably due to the odor.

- **Leprosy a Picture of sin**
 1. Incurable by human means
 2. Contaminates those it touches
 3. Separates us from a Holy God

Matthew 9:6 But that you may know that the Son of Man **has power on earth to forgive sins**—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” 7 And he arose and departed to his house.

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| 1. Rod to Serpent and back: | Power over Satan |
| 2. Leprosy to Clean and back: | Power over Sin |

- Able AND willing to forgive...

Luke 5:12 [Leper to Jesus] “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” 13 Then He put out His hand and touched him, saying, “**I am willing**; be cleansed.” Immediately the leprosy left him.

9 And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. The water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land.”

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| 1. Rod to Serpent and back: | Power over Satan |
| 2. Leprosy to Clean and back: | Power over Sin |
| 3. Water to Blood | Power over Superstition |

- Egyptians worshiped the Nile River as giver of Life

Power over Superstition

- God alone is the giver of Life

1 Timothy 6:13 I urge you in the sight of God **who gives life to all things...**

John 5:26 ...as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself

God declares "Life is in the Blood"

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.

Life is in the Blood. Only the shedding of blood can take away sin and give us life

Hebrews 9:22 ...according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Luke 24:39 Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

Hebrews 12:12 [Jesus did not offer the Father] ... the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Jesus offered His blood to give us life...any other substitute [Nile] is vile

V 1But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice?

- God begins graciously with Moses lack of faith
 1. **Rod to Serpent and back** Power over Satan
 2. **Leprosy to Clean and back** Power over Sin
 3. **Water to Blood** Power over Superstition/Idolatry

10 Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

- **Moses continues his lack of faith in a big God**
- Slow of speech [lit. heavy of mouth] I stutter...you got the wrong guy?
 1. I'm not educated
 2. I'm not good looking
 3. I'm not outgoing
 4. **I'm not who you, God, think I am?**

11 So the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord?"

I made you just the way I wanted to...disabilities and ALL. I **don't make mistakes**

- I made the mute, the deaf, the seeing and the blind

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..."

Psalms 39:13 [David] For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.

- **Now that we have that straight...**

In those years of silence - preaching only to the sheep - Moses had to deal with all the discouragement and sense of failure and condemnation that accumulated over 40 years. It isn't hard to see why he now believes he can't do what he clearly thought he could do before. [Guzic]

12 Now therefore, go [Moses], and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

- **Go and I will be with you and teach you:** Hard to trust in an unseen God

13 But [Moses] said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send."

- Send somebody else?
- Moses disobedience/unwillingness are signs of his unbelief in a Big God:

14 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses...

- Anger of the Long-Suffering God finally kindled:

Exodus 34:6 ...the Lord passed before [Moses] and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth"

What does God think about unbelief? Unbelief is a Great Evil in sight of God!

We often talk of unbelief as if it were an affliction to be pitied instead of a crime to be condemned.

The angels never doubt Him, nor the devils either; we alone, out of all the beings that God has fashioned, dishonor Him by unbelief, and tarnish His honour by mistrust.

Even if a man had no other sin whatsoever, it is quite sufficient to condemn him forever, that he neglects his God and turns away from his Saviour; for unbelief is an act of high treason against the divine majesty, plucking at the crown jewel of Jehovah's truthfulness. [Spurgeon]

- Moses will morph into an example of one who believes/trusts/obeys God [Red Sea]
- Moses example makes Israelites even more accountable for unbelief

Hebrews 3:8 Do not harden your hearts as in the **rebellion**, In the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers **tested Me**, tried Me, And **saw My works** forty years. 10 Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.' 11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'" 12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an **evil heart of unbelief** in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 15 while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." 16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those

who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see **that they could not enter in because of unbelief.**

- Unbelief is rebellion
- Unbelief is evil
- Unbelief is cumulative/exponential/leads to a hard heart if not repented of
- Unbelief is a choice [otherwise it would not be punished as sin]

Choosing to not believe in Jesus to the day you die is damning

Matthew 12:31 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

- **John 1:4** Jesus is the light of men. Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to mankind

John 16:8 ...when [the Holy Spirit] has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the **ruler of this world is judged.**

Refusal to believe the Holy Spirit's revelation of their desperate need of a Savior

Is clear indication that person is not saved

- **Unbelief makes God angry**

14 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. 15 Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. 16 So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. 17 And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs."

- **Anger** of the Lord led to God giving Aaron to Moses
 1. Golden Calf incident
 2. Aaron's sons offering "strange fire"
 3. Rebellion against Moses
- "I will give you Words and you will give them to brother Aaron"
- "You shall be to him as God to Aaron"; i.e. You will give him direction

SUMMARY Moses Unbelief: Signs for Israelites: Power over Devil, Sin, Superstition. Don't forget the rod; don't forget Aaron, but learn to trust in Me alone.

II. Moses Goes back to Egypt

18 So Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him,

"Please let me go and return to my brethren who are in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "**Go in peace.**"

- **Jethro:** Moses father-in-law/Priest of Midian
- **Go in Peace:** Immediately blesses Moses mission
 1. Revealed by God to Jethro previously?
 - Jethro worshiped the True God and taught Zipporah
 - Moses knew God's Word from his parents [important later]

19 Now the Lord said to Moses in Midian, "Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead."

- **Moses waits for:**
 1. God's Word
 2. God's Timing

Your step-father Pharaoh is dead. Your step-brother is the new Pharaoh of Egypt

20 Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand. 21 And the Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go."

Moses obedient takes family to Egypt

- **Takes family to Egypt:** Wife, sons, his trusty staff
- Do everything I told you and do it front of the New Pharaoh...but it won't work

I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go?

22 Then...

- **Then:**
 1. After the signs/wonders
 2. After Pharaoh's heart is hardened
 3. After he refuses to let *the* people go...tell him they are *My people*

22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord: "Israel is My son, My firstborn."

- Moses you will speak on My behalf
 1. Israel is my son
 2. Israel is my firstborn

23 So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn."''''

- I your refuse to let My son/firstborn go...

I will kill your son, your firstborn

Zachariah 2:8 ... thus says the Lord of hosts: ...he who touches you [Israel] touches the apple of His eye. [Pupil / most sensitive part]

Genesis 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you...

- How is America doing?

III. Throwing of the Foreskin

24 And it came to pass on the way, at the encampment, that the Lord met him and sought to kill him. 25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son and cast it at Moses' feet

- **Moses on his way to Egypt**
 1. Lord stops Him to kill him while at same time...
 2. Wife pulls son off donkey/pants down/sharp stone/circumcision
 3. Covered in blood throws foreskin at Moses

25b..."Surely you are a husband of blood to me!" 26 So He let him go.

- Screams "You are a husband of Blood..."
- God then lets Moses go?

26b...Then she said, "You are a husband of blood!"—because of the circumcision.

- You are a husband of blood **because of the circumcision**

Genesis 17:9 ...God said to Abraham: "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. 10 This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised

**Moses was not fulfilling his role as spiritual head of the household
How would he lead a nation?**

1 Timothy 3:5 [Paul asks rhetorical question]...if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?

- Parental advice from people whose kids are a mess?
- Leaders must be:
 1. Faithful at home
 2. Faithful within the church
 3. Finally, faithful leading the church

There is often a point of confrontation in the life of the leader where God demands that they lay aside some area of compromise, and will not allow them to progress further until they do. [Guzic]

27 And the Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So

he went and met him on the mountain of God, and kissed him.

- God speaks to Moses brother Aaron who will be a priest
- **v.14** When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart
 1. Met on Mountain of God
 2. Aaron kisses Moses

28 So Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord who had sent him, and all the signs which He had commanded him.

- Conference on the Mountain

29 Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel.30 And Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people.

- **In Egypt:**
 1. Elders gathered from among Israelite slaves
 2. Moses as God giving words to Aaron
 3. Aaron spokesman to Children of Israel
 4. Signs for the captives: Rod to snake, leprosy, blood

v.5 "that they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

- Apostles were given ability to do signs to authenticate the message

31 **So the people believed;** and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.

- **Captives without hope in Egypt:**
 1. Believed God was intervening
 2. Believed God saw their affection
 3. Bowed their heads and worshiped

True belief leads to Worship. We were created to Worship God alone.