

What Moses Can Teach Us About the Excuses We Make When God Calls Us

Most of us have felt it. That moment when God nudges us toward something and our immediate response is a list of reasons why we are not the right person for the job. This is not a modern problem. It is one of the oldest stories in Scripture, and it starts with a burning bush and a very reluctant man named Moses.

Have You Ever Talked Yourself Out of Something God Called You To Do?

Think about a time when someone handed you a task, equipped you for it, and told you that you were the right person. Before they even finished speaking, your mind was already building a case against yourself. Now take that feeling and apply it to your relationship with God.

How often do we stand before our Creator, hear the calling He places on our lives, and immediately begin listing the reasons we cannot follow through? This is one of the most common ways Christians hinder their own faith walks. We disqualify ourselves before we even take a step.

God Calls Moses: What Exodus 3 and 4 Show Us About Our Own Calling

In Exodus 3, God appears to Moses in a burning bush that is not consumed by the flames. Moses turns aside, walks toward it, removes his sandals, and falls in worship. Then God speaks.

"Then the Lord said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.'" - Exodus 3:7-8 English Standard Version (ESV)

And then comes the call: "Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." - Exodus 3:10 English Standard Version (ESV)

This is a massive calling. God sees the suffering of His people, He wants to do something about it, and He chooses a person to carry it out. That person is Moses.

Why Moses Was Actually the Perfect Person for the Job

Moses was born a Hebrew, one of the very people being oppressed. But he was raised in Egyptian society. He understood their politics, their laws, and how to approach them. He also understood the Israelites because he was one of them. He walked a bridge between two worlds that God had been building His entire life, without Moses even realizing it.

God had been preparing Moses for this moment since before He took His first breath. The same is true for each of us.

But Moses Said "But God": The Excuses We All Make

Moses does not respond with enthusiasm. His first reaction is a question rooted in self-doubt.

"But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?'" - Exodus 3:11 English Standard Version (ESV)

Sound familiar? How often do we look at the person we feel nudged to share the gospel with and think, "God, I am not the one for this"? How often do we hear a calling and immediately respond with "Who am I?"

God's Answer: I Will Be With You

God does not argue Moses' qualifications. He does not give him a resume review. He simply says this.

"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." - Exodus 3:12 English Standard Version (ESV)

God is not handing Moses the keys and walking away. He is saying, "I am going with you. And when you get to the other side, you will look back and see that I was with you the whole time." He even gives Moses a mile marker, a future moment of worship on that very mountain, as proof of His faithfulness.

When Signs Are Not Enough: Moses Keeps Making Excuses

In Exodus 4, God gives Moses three miraculous signs. His staff becomes a serpent. His hand becomes leprous and is then healed. And God promises that water from the Nile will turn to blood. These are not small things. These are undeniable demonstrations of God's power.

And still, Moses pushes back.

"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.'" - Exodus 4:10 English Standard Version (ESV)

God's response cuts right to the heart of the excuse.

"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? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.'" - Exodus 4:11-12 English Standard Version (ESV)

And then Moses says what many of us have thought but rarely admit out loud.

"But he said, 'Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.'" - Exodus 4:13 English Standard Version (ESV)

Two Things to Remember When God Calls You

1. God Has Been Preparing You for This Your Entire Life

Every experience in your testimony, every hard season, every unexpected turn, has been shaping you for the mission God has placed before you. Just as Moses' unusual upbringing made him uniquely qualified to stand between two worlds, your story makes you the right person for what God is calling you into.

You may feel too old, too young, or too tired. But God is not done with you. He is not done with your calling until the moment you draw your last breath and hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

2. God Wants You Right Now, Not a Future, More Polished Version of You

He is not waiting for you to feel ready. He is not waiting for you to be eloquent of speech. He is not waiting for you to have it all figured out. He is calling you as you are, in this moment, for this mission.

As theologian Peter Eames writes, "When the Lord calls us to a task, He is faithful to see us through it, despite any of our feelings."

You Are on Mission Every Day, Not Just on Sundays

The mission God places on your life does not pause when you leave the church building. Whether you are in an office, a grocery store, a restaurant, or your own home, you are on mission. The person you feel nudged to speak to could be the one conversation that changes everything for them.

Hebrews 12:1-2 puts it this way: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." - Hebrews 12:1-2 English Standard Version (ESV)

Every excuse we hold onto is a weight. And we are called to lay it down and run.

Life Application

This week, identify one specific area where you have been making excuses instead of stepping into what God has called you to do. It does not have to be something large. It might be a conversation you have been avoiding, a person you have felt nudged to check on, or a step of service you have been putting off. Write it down. Pray over it. And then take one concrete step toward it before the week is over.

Ask yourself these questions as you reflect:

- What calling or nudge from God have I been dismissing with excuses?
- How has God already been preparing me, through my experiences and my story, for this very moment?
- What would it look like for me to trust that God is with me, just as He promised Moses, and take one step forward this week?