

Pastor John Miller, 08-02-2026, COTR Texarkana

Title: What Would I Do...If I Was Moses?

Purpose: Provoke people to stop making excuses and start doing what God called them to do.

Truth for Today: With God's help, I can do anything He asks me to do.

Topic: Moses, Excuses, Risk, Faith, Obedience

Text: Philippians 4:13

Series title: What Would I Do If...

Series purp.: Provoke people to follow God's will, God's Word and the Holy Spirit above all else

What Would I Do...If I Was Moses?

- I. Introduction (Start construction tomorrow) (Pic grandkids on same screen, 2 sick)
 - A. Review series: Today we'll ask ourselves the question, Title: What Would I Do, If I Was Moses? Pic Moses ¹We're learning life lessons from Biblical characters.
 - B. Text: Context lot/ little: [Phil. 4:13 (NCV)] **I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength.** App (need or called to do) Today we'll see how Moses almost missed his God-given destiny. When God called him, Moses initially made excuses why he couldn't do what God asked because he looked at his limitations instead of God. App. What do I say when God calls me to do something, e.g. Start a ministry, start a business, support a missionary, witness to a stranger, prayer before work, etc. Do I say yes, or do I make excuses?
- II. Overview Moses' accomplishments. Moses is one of the greatest men in the Bible
 - A. [Deut. 34:10 (NLT)] There has never been another prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. Pic ² Pic ³10 plagues Pharaoh Egypt, led 2 million Israelites out of Egypt, saw the Red Sea open and Egyptians destroyed, witnessed miraculous feeding and giving water to 2 million people, on Mt. Sinai he received 10 commandments, etc. He almost missed it all and remained a shepherd because he made excuses to God why he couldn't go. App Is God calling us; are we doing it?
 - B. God calls Moses: [Ex. 3-4 (ESV)] Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law... ² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire Pic ⁴ ⁴...God called to him out of the bush... ⁷ the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt... ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them... ¹⁰ Come, **I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people...out of Egypt.**" ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "**Who am I** that I should go..." ¹² He said, "**But I will be with you...**" ¹³ Then Moses said to God, "**If** I come to the people of Israel and say...God...has sent me to you,' and they ask me, '**What is his name?**' **what shall I say** to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses..."**Say this...'I am has sent me to you.'**"... ¹ Then Moses answered, "**But behold, they will not believe me...**for they will say, 'The Lord did not appear to you.' (**supernatural signs**: staff became a snake, his hand became leprous...) "... ¹⁰ But Moses said..."Oh, my Lord, **I am not eloquent...(NCV) I speak slowly...**" ¹¹ Then the Lord said to him..."**go, and I will...teach you what you shall speak.**" ¹³ But he said, "Oh, my **Lord, please send someone else.**"] Moses almost missed a life of significance because of fear, doubt and lack of self-confidence. // us rather than saying, Through Christ I can do whatever, he looked in the mirror and said, I can't.

III. Observations and applications

- A. Why do we make excuses to God? Fear, lack of resources, vain imaginations (what if), too busy for God, or feel unqualified. Bottom line: God isn't in our equation. Circumstances, not Philippians 4:13 controls our thinking. We can **change that now**.
- B. Learning to depend on God and not ourselves is hard. [Ex. 4:10 (NCV) Moses said... "Please, Lord, **I have never been a skilled speaker**...I speak slowly and can't find the best words." [Acts 7:22 (NIV) Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the **Egyptians** and was **powerful in speech** and action.] How can both be true? I believe Acts 7 refers to being raised as Pharaoh's daughter's son. He was educated, proud, wealthy and self-confident. He fled Egypt for 40 years. In the wilderness, he learned the lesson of brokenness, i.e. lost pride and self-confidence and told God, I can't. When he finally said yes, he knew he'd have to depend on God; He exchanged his weakness for God's strength. He believed when he couldn't, God could. Paul's thorn. [2 Cor. 12:9-10 (NIV) But he (*God*) said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."...¹⁰...when I am weak, then I am strong.]
- C. God doesn't have to have self-confident, educated, rich, or influential people to do His work. He can use ordinary people. Moses: 'who am I', 'I'm not eloquent'. [1 Cor. 1:26-29 (NLT)...**few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy** when God called you. ²⁷ Instead, God chose things the world considers **foolish** in order to shame those who think they are wise...²⁹ God did this so that no one can brag in his presence.] **Me farm boy from Ms.**
- D. Don't let reasons become excuses. E.g. **Pic** ⁵At 40, Larry Myers told his denomination God was calling him to Mexico. They told him, you're too old, you don't speak the language, and you don't have money so we can't support you. They were correct in their reasoning but wrong in their belief of what God could do through a man who had faith in God and was willing to obey God. The power of the Holy Spirit is unleashed when we have faith and say yes to God. 230 Ch. +cong.
 - 1. Excuses can make us miss an opportunity do something great with our life for God. What if: (1) Ananias would have said no when the Lord told him to minister to Saul, (2) Noah said no to building the ark, (3) Peter would have said no to standing up to the Jews and preaching on Pentecost. (4) Joseph would have said no to pharaoh, (5) Me vertigo NOM. The Bible is filled with people just like you and me who were afraid, lacked resources, wondered 'what if' the worst happened, and weren't qualified but said yes to God anyway.

IV. Conclusion:

- A. **Pic** ³ Moses was one of the greatest men who ever lived because he got beyond his reasons and excuses and depended on God to change the course of history.
- B. As followers of Jesus the same can happen to us because, [Phil. 4:13 (NCV) **I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength.**]

V. Response

- A. Prayer: Decision to stop making excuses and say yes to God.
- B. Souls: Deut. Moses knew the Lord "face to face", 'in a personal way'. We can, too. Problem, Solution, Decision

VI. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

A. Pictures

1. Moses supreme Court
2. Moses Red Sea #2 and #3 on same slide. Leave up during II A
3. Moses 10 Commandments
4. Moses Burning Bush
5. Larry Myers leave on screen during III D
6. Moses 10 Commandments

VII. Supplemental material

- A. 2 Cor.1:8–9 (NLT) ⁸...Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure...⁹... we expected to die. But as a result, **we stopped relying on ourselves** and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead.