

Exodus 4:13&F

4/23/17

Sunday Morning

Review:

1. Moses is at burning bush
2. God is commissioning Moses to deliver Israel from Egypt

4:1 Then Moses said, "What if they will not believe me or listen to what I say? For they may say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'"

V.2 The LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" And he said, "A staff."

V.3 Then He said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.

V.4 But the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand and grasp it by its tail"—so he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand—

1. "What is that in your hand... Throw it on the ground"
 - a. There are 2 principles that stand out –
 - b. **#1.** You must empty your hands of your stuff before God can fill them
 - c. **#2.** The "ordinary" becomes the "remarkable" when given to God

V.6 The LORD furthermore said to him, "Now put your hand into your bosom." So he put his hand into his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow.

V.7 Then He said, "Put your hand into your bosom again." So he put his hand into his bosom again, and when he took it out of his bosom, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh.

1. "Now put your hand into your bosom... his hand was leprous like snow... Put your hand into your bosom again... it was restored"
 - a. Out of the heart flows the ways of a man

Prov.4:23 (NLT) Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

V.10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

V.11 The LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

V.12 (NP)

V.12 "Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say."

V.13 But he said, "Please, Lord, now send the message by whomever You will."

V.14 *Then the anger of the LORD burned against Moses*, and He said, "Is there not your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he speaks fluently. And moreover, behold, he is coming out to meet you; when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

1. "Then the anger of the LORD burned against Moses"

- a. #1. Why was Moses saying this to God?
 - b. #2. Why did God get mad at Moses?
 - c. Some say Moses was feeling inadequate – probably true
 - d. Some say that Moses was lying – Maybe he was
 - i. He was eloquent!
- Acts 7:22** "And Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, and he was a man of power in words and deeds.

e. Some say he had become a man of stammering lips – maybe

- i. Those might explain why Moses said what he said but –

f. None of these reasons explain why God became angry w/ him
 g. The reason God became angry is clear to me – he didn't trust God!

V.11 The LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?

V.12 "Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say."

h. When God says "I, even I" will take care of you – you need to trust Him to do that!

i. Ours is a walk of faith – we are to trust God

Habakkuk 2:4 "Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.

Rom.1:16 (NP)

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

¹⁷ For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith^(at the beginning) to faith^(at the end); as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Galatians 3:11 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, " THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Hebrews 10:38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

- ii. What was Moses doing? He was shrinking back! He didn't trust God! He was afraid!
- iii. Being afraid is OK – but refusing to obey God because you are afraid is **NOT** OK
- iv. Christ made it clear that we are not to be paralyzed by fear

Matthew 10:24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.

²⁵ "It is enough for the disciple that he become as his teacher, and the slave as his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶ "Therefore do not fear them^(world/enemy), for there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

²⁷ "What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear *whispered* in *your* ear, proclaim upon the housetops.

²⁸ "And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather **fear Him** who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

²⁹ "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And *yet* not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

³⁰ "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

V.31 (NP)

V.31 "Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows.

V.14 x Then the anger of the LORD burned against Moses, and He said, "Is there not your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he speaks fluently. And moreover, behold, he is coming out to meet you; when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

V.15 "You are to speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I, even I, will be with your mouth and his mouth, and I will teach you what you are to do.

V.16 "Moreover, he shall speak for you to the people; and he will be as a mouth for you and you will be as God to him.

V.17 "You shall take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs."

1. " Is there not...Aaron...You...speak to him...put...words in his mouth"
 - a. Here is a picture of God's permissive will instead of His perfect will
 - b. God will allow Aaron to do the talking
 - i. The problem is – Aaron will help Israel sin (w/ an idol)

Exodus 32:1 Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

V.3 Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears, and brought *them* to Aaron.

⁴ And he took *this* from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, and made it into a molten calf; and they said, " This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt."

- ii. Aaron was not originally part of God's plan for Moses/Israel
- iii. How often do we live in God's permissible will & not where He wants us?

V.18 Then Moses departed and returned to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, "Please, let me go," ^(respect)that I may return to my brethren who are in Egypt, and see if they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace."

V.19 (NP)

V.19 Now the LORD said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead." (reassures Moses)

V.20 So Moses took his wife and his sons and mounted them on a donkey, and returned to the land of Egypt. Moses also took the staff of God in his hand.) (300-400 miles)

V.21 The LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.

1. "but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go"
 - a. All of the plagues were an attack on the gods of Egypt
 - i. Even the hardening of Pharaoh's heart is an attack on their religion
 - ii. Egyptians believed that after death their heart was weighed & if found heavy w/ sin they were punished
 - iii. They laid a stone scarab beetle on their heart after death to make their heart hard so they wouldn't confess sins & be judged for them
 - iv. So God attacks their belief in hardening the heart
 - b. True repentance is a gift from God Himself

Acts 5:31 " He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 11:18 And when they heard this, they quieted down, and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."

2 Timothy 2:25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,
 - c. Will God harden a person's heart?
 - i. Sure!

Romans 9:17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH." **V.18 (NP)**

V.18 **So** then He has mercy on whom He desires,
and He hardens whom He desires.

¹⁹ You will say to me then, " Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?"

²⁰ On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?

²¹ Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use, and another for common use?

- ii. Who harden Pharaoh's heart first – God or Pharaoh?
- iii. **Ex.4:21 & 7:3** is a prediction of what God was going to do to Pharaoh's heart
- iv. Pharaoh harden his own heart many times before God does

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

V.23 "So I said to you, 'Let My son go that he may serve Me'; but you have refused to let him go. Behold, I will kill your son, your firstborn.'''

- 1. "Israel is My son, My firstborn" (**V.22**)
 - a. The nation is called His son to compare Israel w/ Pharaoh's son
- 2. "you have refused to let him go...I will kill your son, your firstborn."
 - a. Pharaoh was warned in the beginning what was going to happen

V.24 Now it came about at the lodging place on the way that the LORD met him and sought to put him to death.

V.25 Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and threw it at Moses' feet, and she said, "You are indeed a bridegroom of blood to me."

V.26 So He let him alone. At that time she said, "You are a bridegroom of blood"—because of the circumcision.

- 1. "Zipporah took a **flint** and cut off her son's foreskin and threw it at Moses' feet"
 - a. Israel was a covenant nation – God had a covenant specifically w/ them

Gen.17:1 (NP)

Genesis 17:1(NIV) When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.

² I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

V.7 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

V.9 Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come.

¹⁰ This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep:

Every male among you **shall be circumcised**.

¹¹ You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you^(Israel).

¹² For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner--those who are not your offspring.

¹³ Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they **must be circumcised**. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant.

¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

- b. Moses is going to deliver a covenant people from bondage of Egypt
- c. But he isn't following the covenant! – his own son is not circumcised!
 - i. Apparently Zipporah didn't want her son circumcised at this time – Some say the Midianites circumcised at 13yrs. Others weeks before marriage – I don't know
 - ii. Moses had capitulated to Zipporah & that was not good

iii. It appears that following this incident Moses sent her home to her father

d. God demands obedience in those who serve Him

e. You can't serve God on your terms

V.27 Now the LORD said to Aaron, "Go to meet Moses in the wilderness." So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. (haven't seen each other in 40 yrs.)

V.28 Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD with which He had sent him, and all the signs that He had commanded him to do.

V.29 Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the sons of Israel;

V.30 and Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. He then performed the signs in the sight of the people.

V.31 So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD was concerned about the sons of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, then they bowed low and worshiped.