

"Who Made Man's Mouth?"

Moses with some clarity on who God is. YHWH. "I am who I am"

Moses with some clarity on his life work: *prince AND ruler*. But still some *questions and doubts*. This is a sermon specifically for those who know their God-given assignment!

THIS WEEK: doubts related to his questions...

DOUBT #1: About the people "The people are not going to believe me!" **Exodus 4:1**

WARNING: The danger of dealing with allegories: a person can start seeing things!

Exodus 4:2-9 God shows him how to address this problem, using a stick that Moses was using as a staff (He was working as a shepherd, and would continue to be: shepherding "a very large flock of sheep") and then using one of his own hands, which he was using for pretty much everything he did... THE POINT: God will demonstrate his power as Moses does his work. (SIGNIFICANT! This is how it works.) The third demonstration would be the same: using water from the river: another daily part of life. By the time this episode is over, Moses is on his way to Pharaoh's court with his staff in his hand... **Exodus 4:20** So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took **the staff of God** in his hand. → but now it's "the staff of God"! Actually, it ALWAYS was! (Ownership!)

WHAT TO KNOW:

1. God is able and willing to display his power in the skills and abilities and tools we use to do our work.

As the people of God, we each have been given work to do (There are two kinds of work)

1 Peter 4:10-11 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: **whoever speaks**, as one who speaks oracles of God; **whoever serves**, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

But Moses fails to get the point: fails to trust God regarding his assignment...

DOUBT #2: About himself "I am not eloquent; I am slow of speech" **Exodus 4:10**

LAST WEEK:

QUESTION #1:	<i>Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?</i>	3:11
Answer:	"I will be with you"	3:12
QUESTION #2:	<i>What is your name that I shall tell the people who sent me?</i>	3:13
Answer:	"I am who I am"	3:14-15

NOTICE: This doubt comes with **A SUGGESTION...**

Exodus 4:11-17 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." But he said, [Here's the suggestion:] "**Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.**" Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs."

Here is a classic case of the meeting of two essential doctrines: divine sovereignty and human responsibility. Here is a classic biblical example of God's ordained plan being a "Plan B" ...

Paul the apostle lived with an awareness of this principle: that if he didn't live carefully, if he didn't properly care for his privileges and attend to his responsibilities, his carelessness and neglect could really mess things up!

1 Corinthians 9:27, 10:1-11 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. For I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. **Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did ... Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.**

WHAT TO KNOW:

2. God is able and willing to accomplish his will with as little help from you as you choose

God is quite able to proceed with his plan with little or no help from you and me. **Matthew 3:9** And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

OR with more help from you than you can even imagine. **Ephesians 3:20** Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us... Again, Moses fails to get the point: fails to trust God regarding his assignment, and so gets moved to "Plan B."

WHAT TO DO:

- a) Keep your focus on God the "Solver of All Your Problems" rather than on all your problems.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me. **Philippians 4:19** And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1-2 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...

Are you clear on what you need to do and what you need to stop doing in order to "fix your eyes" on Jesus?

- b) Keep a really close watch on yourself, especially your heart!

Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

"Heart" = the sum total of all your loves and hates: "*passions and pleasures*": for they will become your master if you will become their slave! And then God will not be your master and you will not be his good and faithful slave.

1 Corinthians 10:12,13 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

2 Timothy 2:3-5 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

Are there issues, passions, pleasures in your life which are too distracting to leave in place? Is there a price you must pay to become (and remain) free to serve Christ as his good and faithful slave? Are you going to pay it?

NEXT WEEK (October 11: Thanksgiving!): "**The Same Number of Bricks**" [Exodus 4:21-5:23]