



Sermon Notes

Main Points & Verses

Application

Key Themes & Additional Insights

Responding to the call of God

Moses feels inadequate. The task before him is daunting and he is struggling to understand why God has chosen him. We see this clearly in the concerns that Moses raises with God in Exodus 3 & 4. The truth of the matter is that Moses is inadequate. His concerns are valid. And yet, God has specifically chosen Moses, called him out, and given him a task that is way beyond his means. But there's more. With the call of the LORD comes a beautiful picture of God's desire to reveal himself to Moses. The bulk of this passage involves God talking to Moses, explaining himself, instructing, revealing. God graciously engages Moses and addresses his concerns. He is patient and kind. He even equips Moses with the power to perform miracles.

The line in the sand

Moses makes five statements in response to God's call, four of which are "OK" with the Lord. It is the fifth response that God will not tolerate. "O Lord, please send someone else to do it." Even after God has answered each of Moses' concerns, he ultimately responds with reluctance if not flat out disobedience. It is at this point that Moses steps over the line eliciting the LORD'S anger. God understands our fears, insecurities, and inadequacies. He is more than willing to relate to us in those areas, to explain and reveal himself, and to equip us for the task at hand. But God becomes increasingly less understanding when we say "no". It is one thing to say "I don't understand" and another to say "I am unwilling".

Signs and Wonders

God gives Moses power to perform miraculous signs before the Hebrew people. The three signs (a staff that becomes a snake, Moses' hand becoming leprous and then restored again, and water from the Nile turning to blood) were to serve as a message to the Hebrew people that the LORD their God was powerful, much more powerful than Pharaoh, and that his intention was to work through Moses for their deliverance. The "wonders" that take place in Exodus performed a very different function in that they were acts of judgment against the Egyptians. These "signs and wonders" become a powerful theme in Exodus and they point to the New Testament and Jesus Christ. We have in the resurrection of Jesus the ultimate sign as believers that God is with us, that he is working on our behalf, that we have "identity, freedom, and purpose" through Jesus Christ our Lord. We as Christians become a "sign" to the world around us that Jesus is real. It is a part of the "call" of the LORD in our lives as his people.

Questions for Further Personal Reflection & Group Discussion

Questions

1. Take some time to respond to what you have been learning from Exodus. What is God saying to you?

2. Moses is clearly not up to the task that God has given him, and he knows it (Ex 3:11-4:10).

What does this tell us about the “workings of God”?

What does this tell us about ourselves and our purpose as Christians?

3. Moses responds to God with 5 concerns or “challenges” (3:11, 3:13, 4:1, 4:10, and 4:13).

Which one do you most relate to or most characterizes your life?

Describe a time when God was patient with you in your reluctance? A time when God answered your concerns and revealed himself to you?

4. The “signs” that Moses was empowered to perform were given specifically to serve as a message to the Hebrew people that God was working through Moses to deliver them.

What signs have you been given in your Christian walk that have communicated God's intention for you?

What do the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ signify for us as believers?

Digging Deeper

5. Clearly the burning bush experience was a powerful one, and Moses was being called to something very specific and significant. But what meaning can we draw from this as Christians in the 21st century? What does the New Testament tell us about the "call" of the Lord in our lives? What scriptures can you think of that describe our calling as followers of Christ (e.g. Matthew 28: 18-20)

God used Moses to bring redemption to the Hebrews in Egypt. How might God want to use you to bring redemption to a broken world?

Have you ever experienced a specific call from the Lord in your life? Describe that experience. How did God communicate it to you? How did you respond to the LORD?