

Moses: The Reluctant Prophet 01-06-19 AM

A prophet was a messenger from God. They are found in the Old Testament and the New Testament. We are told that God sent them to direct his people (2 Chron. 36:15). There have been many prophets; Jesus Himself is the greatest prophet. One of the greatest of the prophets was Moses, the mediator of the Old Testament (Hebrews 3:5, Numbers 12:7).

As great as Moses was, when he was called, he was not willing to obey. *But he said, "Please, Lord, now send the message by whomever You will." Then the anger of the LORD burned against Moses* (Exodus 4:13-14a). His reluctance might be from several different issues.

1. His Humility – Moses was a very meek man, and sometimes with meekness is a timidity to act.
But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh?" (Exodus 3:11).
Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth (Numbers 12:3).
2. A speech impediment – It seems that Moses had some sort of handicap in speaking.
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" (Exodus 4:10)
3. His age – Moses was an old man at the end of his life (from his perspective) when he was called.
As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years (Psalm 90:10)
Moses was eighty years oldwhen they spoke to Pharaoh. (Exodus 7:7)
4. His past failures – Moses had tried to lead the children of Israel before and they rejected him.
"When (Moses) was approaching the age of forty, it entered his mind to visit his brethren, the sons of Israel..... he supposed that his brethren understood that God was granting them deliverance through him, but they did not understand" (Acts 7:23)

Moses had many reasons not to serve God that we might consider legitimate. In contrast, he had ONE reason to serve God: God had called him to do so. While he had many reasons, Moses had no excuses not to serve God; meaning that nothing excused him from service. Moses is an example for us today of serving God. We sometimes feel we have reasons not to answer the call of God. So how did GOD overcome Moses' reasons?

1. God gave him power to overcome timidity by giving him three signs/powers. God equips us to overcome timidity by the power of the word of truth.
"If they will not believe you or heed the witness of the first sign, they may believe the witness of the last sign" (Exodus 4:8)
For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)
2. God gave him power to overcome human speech, and God gives us the knowledge to overcome all the words of men.
"Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say." (Exodus 4:12)

I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.
(Luke 21:15)

3. God gave him a brother for encouragement; God gives us brethren to lift us up.

"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" (Exodus 4:14)

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; (Romans 12:10)

Moses is an important lesson for us of what it means to answer the call of God. God calls us to be His servants through His word. We often have reasons why we cannot serve Him, but if God has called us, we have no excuses. We need to have confidence that God has already equipped us to His purposes.

That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:17)