

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

After an 80 year-old Moses met with God at the burning bush, and the Lord revealed to him His plans for the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt, Moses began making excuses why he was not the man for the job. Moses was very knowledgeable of Egypt, but lacked assurance of his ability to fulfill what God wanted him to do. In chapter four, we observe how God convinced Moses to fulfill His calling.

I. THE STRUGGLES WITH THE CALLING

Ex. 4:1 And Moses answered and said, But, **behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice**: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.

❖ “No one will believe my calling.”

- The first confrontation to overcome is a personal lack of confidence.
- Forty years in Pharaoh’s court, then forty years in “monastic solitude” did not provide personal confidence for obedience to God’s call.

Ex. 4:10 And Moses said unto the LORD, **O my Lord, I am not eloquent**, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but **I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.**

- ❖ “I am not a good speaker. I am not equipped to fulfill such a calling.”
- ❖ According to Stephen, Moses greatly underestimated himself:

Acts 7:22 And **Moses** was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and **was mighty in words** and in deeds.

Ex. 4:13 And he said, O my Lord, **send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.**

❖ “Just send someone else.”

- After the LORD called Moses and made the case for his mission to Egypt, Moses still found lame excuses for not obeying God’s call.

II. THE SOLUTION FOR CONFIDENCE

❖ The LORD uses several “signs” to give Moses confidence to obey His calling.

1 Cor. 1:22 For **the Jews require a sign**, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

The signs – Ex. 4:2-9

Ex. 4:2 And the LORD said unto him, *What is that in thine hand?* And he said, A rod.

3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.

4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:

5 That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.

6 And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand *was* leprous as snow.

7 And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his *other* flesh.

8 And it shall come to pass, **if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.**

9 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour *it* upon the dry *land*: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry *land*.

God's intervention

- ❖ These signs would give Moses confidence, and serve to assist the Israelites to believe Moses' testimony.

❖ After Moses undermined Stephen's testimony of being "mighty in words," (Acts 7:22,) by complaining he was "slow of speech, and of a slow tongue," the LORD reminded Moses that as Creator, He could take care of any physical shortcomings:

Ex. 4:11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?

12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

❖ Moses frustrated the LORD by asking Him to get someone else (4:13):

Ex. 4:14 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, *Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.*

15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.

16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and **he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.**

17 And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith **thou shalt do signs.**

- ❖ The LORD allowed Aaron to have a substantial role in Moses' mission, but eventually, it would cause difficulties for Moses (remember the “golden calf.” Deut. 9:20)

III. THE SUBMISSION TO THE CAUSE

- ❖ Before the monumental confrontation of David vs. Goliath, David asked an important question: 1 Sam. 17:29 “And David said... ***Is there not a cause?***”
- ❖ After the last confrontation with the LORD and refutation of Moses' excuses, Moses submitted to the call, clearing things with Jethro, his father in law:

Ex. 4:18 And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father in law, and said unto him, Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which *are* in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace.

❖ The Lord Jesus wanted the Father to remove the “cup” before Calvary, but submitted Himself to the will of the Father.

Luke 22:41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,
42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

- ❖ Moses did not divulge his Egyptian mission to his father in law, only that he wanted to see if his family was yet alive.

IV. THE SERVICE OF COMPASSION

- ❖ The LORD informed Moses of His plan and His program for the Egyptian mission.

Ex. 4:19 And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life.

20 And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

21 And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, **see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.**

22 And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel *is* my son, *even* my firstborn:

23 And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, *even* thy firstborn.

❖ Moses was to warn Pharaoh of the loss of his firstborn son.

❖ Along the way to Egypt, the LORD interrupted the journey to correct Moses' lack of faithfulness. If you are going to warn Pharaoh about his firstborn son, then take care of your own.

24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him.

25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast *it* at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband *art* thou to me.

26 So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband *thou art*, because of the circumcision.

❖ The LORD interrupted Aaron's life with directions to meet Moses in the wilderness:

27 And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him.

28 And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him.

29 And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel:

30 And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people.

31 And **the people believed**: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

Summary

❖ Moses is a type of Christ in many ways, including the passage tonight.

Struggles = Becoming Sin

2 Cor. 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Solution = Praying In The Garden

Luk 22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Submission = The Cross

Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Service = Salvation

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Conclusion

Remember His Promises:

Ex. 3:12a “And he said, **Certainly I will be with thee...**”

Deut. 31:6 **Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he *it is* that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. ...**

8 **And the LORD, he *it is* that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.**

Josh. 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? **Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.**

Mt. 28:20b “...and, lo, **I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world.** Amen.”

Heb 13:5b “...he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**”

Follow His Plan:

Psa. 127:1a “**Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it...**”

Prov. 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;** and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**

Rom. 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And **how shall they preach, except they be sent?** as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!