

Moses: The Reluctant Leader
Unusual Suspects, Pt. 1
Exodus 3-4

Sunday, June 1, 2025

Exodus 1:8, Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. **9** "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. **10** Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and... fight against us and leave the country." **11** So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor...

Exodus 3:7, The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. **8** So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. **9** And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them."

Exodus 12:31, During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested. **32** Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me." **33** The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country.

Thoughts on Becoming a Reluctant Leader:

1. God Sees Potential Where We See ORDINARY

Exodus 3:1, Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. **3** So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." **4** When

the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." **5** "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." **6** Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

1 Samuel 16:7, "People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 Corinthians 1:27, But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise...

2. God's Call Outweighs Our INSECURITY

Exodus 3:10, "So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." **11** But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" **12** And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

Jeremiah 1:6, "Alas, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." **7** But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. **8** Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

3. God Reveals His Name to Strengthen Our TRUST

Exodus 3:13, Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" **14** God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I

AM has sent me to you.” **15** God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ “This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.”

John 8:58, “... before Abraham was born, I am!”

Psalm 9:10, *Those who know your name trust in you...*

4. God Prepares the Way Before You **BEGIN**

Exodus 3:16, “Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. **17** And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.”

Proverbs 3:5, *Trust in the LORD... 6 and He will make your paths straight.*

Ephesians 2:10, ... *God prepared in advance for us to do.*

5. God Equips You Before He **CALLS**

Exodus 4:1, Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you?’” **2** Then the LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” “A staff,” he replied. **3** The LORD said, “Throw it on the ground.” Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. **4** Then the LORD said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. **5** “This,” said the Lord, “is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.”

Hebrews 13:21, *equip you with everything good for doing his will...*

Philippians 1:6, ... *he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion...*

6. God Is Bigger Than Our **WEAKNESS**

Exodus 4:10, Moses said to the LORD, “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.” **11** The LORD said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? **12** Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

Isaiah 6:5, “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

Romans 8:26, ... *the Spirit helps us in our weakness.*

7. God Provides People for Your **JOURNEY**

Exodus 4:13, But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.” **14** Then the LORD’s anger burned against Moses and he said, “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. **15** You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. **16** He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. **17** But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9, *Two are better than one... 10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.*

Mark 6:7, *Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two...*