

MOSES – LIFE OF DESTINY #5 “Overcoming Fear”

Exodus 4:1-5, 10-14

Our script: Moses is called by God – and immediately begins to try and tell God why he can't do it. Reveals the problem of inadequacy.

Exodus 4:1-5, 10-14 Then Moses answered and said, “But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, ‘The Lord has not appeared to you.’” ²So the Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A rod.” ³And He said, “Cast it on the ground.” So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. ⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail” (and he reached out 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, has appeared to you.” ¹⁰Then Moses said to the Lord, “O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” ¹¹So the Lord said to him, “Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord?” ¹²Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.”

I. THE VOICE OF CALLING

A. God's great plans for Moses' life are not good news to Moses: *He is afraid/he feels inadequate*

1. One of the meanings/manifestations of Fear: *To make small*

a. I can't do what you are asking me to do b. I don't have what it takes to do this c. I am inadequate – not enough

2. Fear focuses on ourselves: *Moses begins to make excuses – all of which are focused on himself*

- a. I'm not qualified: *Ex 3:11* who am I, that I should bring them out of Egypt?
- b. I don't know enough: *Ex 3:13* when they ask me what is God's name? What shall I say?
- c. People won't believe me: *Ex 4:1* suppose they won't believe me or listen to me?
- d. I lack the talent needed: *Ex 4:10* I can't speak well enough...
- e. Somebody else could do it better: *Ex 4:13* please send someone else...

3. Inadequacy makes our lack/our weakness/our failures/history the center of our minds/hearts

a. We rehash every failure/recall every slight/go over every possible bad outcome

B. God deliberately chooses the fearful & inadequate: a. *1 Cor 1:26* For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

1. **God does this so we will depend on Him – not ourselves:** Fearful men can lean on God easier

2. **God does this so He receives the glory:** *1 Corinthians 1:29* God did this so that no one can brag in his presence.

a. Abraham Lincoln: God must love common people very much, for He made so many of them

II. THE DANGERS OF FEAR

A. **inadequacy can torment you** Inadequacy is an inner voice that robs us of joy/faith/confidence

1. *I John 4:18* fear has torment...to be imprisoned/whipped/tortured b. I can't do this/I'm going to be exposed/found out

a. Inadequacy is a demon spirit! Accuser/slanderer

B. **Inadequacy can keep you from obeying:** Moses is delaying obeying while he wrestles with his fears

1. Many do this: *I will obey someday – when I feel confident/able*

2. Some run from the call of God: *Then no risk of failure/no risk of looking foolish/no risk of people getting upset with me*

a. *1 Samuel 10:21-22* Finally Saul was chosen. But when they looked for him, he could not be found. So they asked the LORD, “Has the man come here yet?” And the LORD said, “Yes, he has hidden himself among the baggage.”

1. We can hide ourselves in familiar things/things we're comfortable with

3. Notice Moses made excuses to God: *There are good reasons I can't do Your will*

a. Makes us feel noble: I'm probably not good at it/I might hurt someone...

4. Some deliberately sabotage themselves: *If I sin...then I'm disqualified – and therefore safe*

III. OVERCOMING FEAR

A. **Ask God to heal or deliver you:** God promises supernatural healing and deliverance

1. *Luke 9:1* Jesus called the 12 apostles together and gave them power and authority over all demons and the ability to heal sicknesses.

a. Healing if a wound caused your inadequacy 2. Deliverance if a spirit torments you

B. **Surrender your pride:** Inadequacy & fear is pride enthroned

1. My self-worth was hurt in the past – so I will not do anything that I can fail or look foolish

2. So the answer is to surrender our pride: *I leave how I look/what people think – to God*

C. **Believe God: Fear is disbelief:** *I refuse to believe that God tells the truth or He will help me*

1. The answer to Moses' inadequacy – was God

a. I'm not qualified: *I will be with you!* b. I don't know enough: *I will tell you – I'll help people believe you*
c. People won't believe me: *I'll give you supernatural power* d. I lack the talent needed: *I'll help you to do it*

1. *1 Thessalonians 5:24* The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

2. *Zechariah 4:6* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts

2. God is not cruel: *If He calls you – He will equip you!*

D. **Do what God told you:** Supernatural power is only released as we obey:

1. COI: Cross the Jordan – only as the priests stepped in the water, did the waters part supernaturally

a. Do the thing you fear, and the death of fear is certain

b. Dad: Practiced preaching by whispering. Why? B/C I felt completely inadequate. But God used him powerfully!