

Exodus Chapter Four

Exodus 4:1-5

Then Moses answered and said, "What if they will not believe me, or listen to what I say? For they may say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you.' And the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" And he said, "A staff." Then He said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. But the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand and grasp it by its tail"—so he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand—"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."

- Moses questions God's ability to accomplish this through him. (He remembers slaying the Egyptian 40 yrs earlier)
- Moses is shown that it is the presence of the Lord that will accomplish deliverance.
- Moses is requesting proof from the Lord for being spokesperson for YHWH.
- First Sign—Rod becomes serpent and then is picked up again: displays God's power over satan.
- Second Sign—Hand in bosom becomes leprous—then cleansed (bosom speaks of inner life—Prov 4:23/ Keep thy heart with all diligence)—displays God's power over sin.
- Third Sign—Water of the Nile becomes blood: displays God redeeming from both sin and satan by the work of the blood.

Exodus 4:6-9

And the Lord furthermore said to him, "Now put your hand into your bosom." So he put his hand into his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. Then He said, "Put your hand into your bosom again." So he put his hand into his bosom again; and when he took it out of his bosom, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. "And it shall come about that if they will not believe you or heed the witness of the first sign, they may believe the witness of the last sign. But it shall be that if they will not believe even these two signs or heed what you say, then you shall take some water from the

Nile and pour it on the dry ground; and the water which you take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground."

- There are 3 signs given to establish God's authority—only two of which will be used in Egypt.
- Once God demonstrates His adequacy—Moses turns protests to his own inadequacy.
- To this point—Moses has been occupied with the question of authority--- if God makes a command—does He have the authority to accomplish it.
- God will demonstrate Himself through a series of signs.
- Believe—to trust—the word from which 'amen' is derived.
- Moses is concerned because neither Israel or Egypt has any basis for trusting him or a God they have not encountered for centuries.

Exodus 4:10-13

Then Moses said to the Lord, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since Thou hast spoken to Thy servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." And the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him dumb or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say." But he said, "Please, Lord, now send the message by whomever Thou wilt."

- When Moses protests—citing inadequacy—God promises that His Presence makes us adequate.
- Moses: I am not eloquent----God's response: I made your mouth.
- Because Moses is not satisfied with God's plan—he must deal with Aaron as a spokesman. He is just like Israel—they don't want to hear from the Lord and ask Moses to hear from God on their behalf.
- God never commands us to act without enabling us to do so.

Exodus 4:14-17

Then the anger of the Lord burned against Moses, and He said, "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. And you are to speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I, even I, will be with your mouth and his mouth, and I will teach you what you are to do. Moreover, he shall

speak for you to the people; and it shall come about that he shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be as God to him. And you shall take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs."

- The staff—an indication that it is YHWH and not Moses who is in charge.
- Signs will demonstrate/ give proof of YHWH's presence with Israel in their captivity.

Exodus 4:18-20

Then Moses departed and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, "Please, let me go, that I may return to my brethren who are in Egypt, and see if they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." Now the Lord said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead." So Moses took his wife and his sons and mounted them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. Moses also took the staff of God in his hand.

- It would appear that Moses leaves Zipporah and Gershom in the care of her father. (Exodus 18:1-9)
- Moses staff is now considered the staff of God.

Exodus 4:21-23

And the Lord said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord, "Israel is My first-born. So I said to you, 'Let My son go, that he may serve Me'; but you have refused to let him go. Behold, I will kill your son, your first-born."

- Verse 23 demonstrates the climax of display of power in Egypt if Pharaoh refuses to obey,
- First born—sometimes refers to the order in physical birth—here it means a position of honor.

Exodus 4:24-26

Now it came about at the lodging place on the way that the Lord met him and sought to put him to death. Then Zipporah took a flint and cut

off her son's foreskin and threw it at Moses' feet, and she said, "You are indeed a bridegroom of blood to me." So he let him alone. At that time she said, 'You are a bridegroom of blood"—because of the circumcision.

- This is a point of obedience for Moses—he had neglected to establish the sign of the covenant with God when he had come out to the desert and married his bride/ had a son.
- Zipporah recognizes that action must be taken.
- Since Midianites were the offspring of Abraham and Keturah—these people were monotheistic—but evidently were lax in keeping their families fully obedient to the ways of God.

Exodus 4:27-31

Now the Lord said to Aaron, "Go to meet Moses in the wilderness." SO he went and met him at the mountain of God, and he kissed him. And Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord with which He had sent him, and all the signs that He had commanded him to do. Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the sons of Israel; and Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses. He then performed the signs in the sight of the people. So the people believed; and when they heard tht the Lord was concerned about the sons of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, then they bowed low and worshiped.

- When Moses and Aaron perform the 3 signs—the people believed.

Exodus Chapter Four Workbook

Key Words:

Harmonize:

In the book of Genesis, what effect did blood have when it was poured on the ground?

Dig:

- 1) What objections does Moses raise with God about his assignment to go to Pharaoh?
- 2) What does God use that belongs to Moses?
- 3) Where is the authority/power displayed in chapter four? In the staff? In Moses? In God?
- 4) What does the serpent represent in this chapter?
- 5) What does leprosy represent in this chapter?
- 6) Which of the three signs mentioned in chapter 4:2-9 is NOT performed for Pharaoh in Egypt?
- 7) How is the staff identified by the end of the chapter?
- 8) How does God describe His relationship with Israel?
- 9) What had Moses neglected that was significant to God?

10) What causes Aaron to go meet Moses in the wilderness?

Discuss:

- 1) What are the drawbacks when God has to use 'Plan B' due to our objections?

- 2) What has the Lord shown His people is of importance to Him that we (the Church) tend to neglect?

- 3) What is the difference between man's authority (and the way it is gained) and true spiritual authority?

Point of Prayer:

Pray for a spiritual leader who serves you in some aspect of your life.

Integrate:

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

Application:

- 1) Has God made a promise to you that you are still waiting for?

- 2) Are you more assured by a display of God's power or when you have heard His voice?

- 3) In what situations are you the least confident?

- 4) How well do you handle delegated authority?

- 5) Is there a circumstance/situation/or a group where you would like to be trusted with more leadership?

- 6) What qualities do you appreciate in a leader?

- 7) How do you recognize a call of God toward ministry?

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