

BAREFOOT OBEDIENCE



Exodus 4, ESV – Then Moses answered, “But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you.’”² The LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.”³ And he said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it.⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, “Put out your hand and catch it by the tail”—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand—⁵ “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.”⁶ Again, the LORD said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow.⁷ Then God said, “Put your hand back inside your cloak.” So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh.⁸ “If they will not believe you,” God said, “or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign.”⁹ If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

¹⁰ But Moses said to the LORD, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.”¹¹ Then the LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?”¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.”¹³ But he said, “Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.”¹⁴ Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, “Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do.¹⁶ He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him.¹⁷ And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs.”

¹⁸ Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, “Please let me go back to my brothers in Egypt to see whether they are still alive.” And Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.”¹⁹ And the LORD said to Moses in Midian, “Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead.”²⁰ So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand.

²¹ And the LORD said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.²² Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son,’²³ and I say to you, ‘Let my son go that he may serve me.’ If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.’”

²⁴ At a lodging place on the way the LORD met him and sought to put him to death.²⁵ Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son’s foreskin and touched Moses’ feet with it and said, “Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me!”²⁶ So he let him alone. It was then that she said, “A bridegroom of blood,” because of the circumcision.

²⁷ The LORD said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. ²⁸ And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do. ²⁹ Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. ³⁰ Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to 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 people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Notes:

1.

2.

3.

SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of November 10, 2019

Exodus 4

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This weekend we were reminded that God addresses our fears by drawing us into faith and action. Why are both faith and action important?

2 Describe a time when God was calling you to do something that you felt unequipped to do. How did you respond to His calling? What was the result?

3 When it comes to God's plan, believers are simply called to be obedient. Why is obedience so difficult? What happens when we are obedient to God?

DIGGING DEEPER

A *Jer 1:4-9, ESV* – ⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD.” ⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

4 Looking at the passage above, what similarities do you see between Moses’ and Jeremiah’s responses to God?

5 How does God respond to each of them? What does this tell us about the way God executes His plan?

B *Rom 15:15-20, ESV* – ¹⁵ But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. ¹⁸ For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; ²⁰ and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else’s foundation

6 According to Paul, what kind of obedience are believers called to do?

7 Based on the passage above, we read that the ultimate purpose of obedience is to fulfill the ministry of the gospel of Christ. What is the ministry of the gospel of Christ?

8 How well are you fulfilling the ministry of the gospel of Christ? Explain. What changes do you need to make in order to better obey God’s calling on your life?

C **Matt 10:19-20, ESV** – ¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

9 When reading Matthew 10:19-20, Exodus 4, and Jeremiah 1:4-9, we see that God will always provide the means to accomplish His plan. Why do you think God used men like this, with excuses and imperfections, to fulfill His plan? Is this any different today? Why or why not?

10 Describe a time when you were obedient to God and He gave you the words to speak. What was the outcome?

TAKING IT HOME

God has a plan for His people to further the ministry of Christ among all the nations. He has called each of us to fulfill our part within that process. What is your part in His ministry? If you are unsure, take it to God in prayer and ask Him. Not only will He answer, but He will provide the means to accomplish it. We only need to respond in obedience, like Isaiah, “Here I am! Send me” (Is 6:8). Share with your group or accountability partner and pray for courage to fulfill His will using the resources He has given you.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

→

→

→

→

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Mark 13:11
Luke 12:11-12