

## **Exodus 4:1-17**

### ***“What’s That In Your Hand?”***

***“When we tell God our weaknesses, we’re not telling Him anything He doesn’t already know.” – Warren Wiersbe***

#### **I. The excuses of Moses**

##### **A. Unimportant & insignificant – Ex. 3:11 – “Who am I”**

1) Just a shepherd (3:1) & guilty of murder (2:11-15).

a) ***Two of satan’s greatest weapons in discouraging us from fulfilling God’s purpose in our life are humiliation & guilt, primarily about our past.***

i) If we don’t feel qualified or significant enough to accomplish a task, we’ll never accept it, resulting in never seeing/realizing what God can do through us and in spite of us.

ii) If we constantly listen to our enemy’s reminders of our past, he’ll eventually convince us to live there – Phil. 3:12-14; Heb. 11:23-29.

2) ***“Who am I” the wrong focus; rather, Who is God?***

a) *It is foolishness to argue “I am not” with the great I AM!*

##### **B. Skepticism – Ex. 3:13 – “Who am I supposed to tell them sent me?”**

1) *If we’re skeptical of the origins of our calling, we’ll also be skeptical of the outcome – Ps. 62:5; Rom. 4:19-24; Phil. 1:3-6; 2 Tim. 1:12; 1 Thess. 5:24; Heb. 11:8-11 – Do we trust the character of the Holy or not?*

##### **C. Hypothetical skepticism – Ex. 4:1– “Suppose they will not believe me or listen to me...suppose they say...”**

1) If, if, if – Matt. 22:23-33

D. Personal weakness – Ex. 4:10 – *“I am not eloquent...I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.”*

1) *If we focus on our limitations, we'll never see God's unlimited power – Acts 7:22.*

E. Fear – Ex. 4:13 – *“O my LORD (Luke 6:46), please send someone (anyone) else!”* – Is. 6:8

1) *Too many Christians are content with hearing the power of someone else's testimony; imagine rather than offering God our excuses we gave Him our heart & said “Here I Am! Send me!”*

## II. **God's responses**

A. Ex. 4:1-9 – the miraculous

1) V.2 – *“What is that in your hand?”*

a) God knew what it was; He was getting Moses' attention.

i) Rod/staff a symbol of authority, power & identity.

ii) Heb. = a branch, a tribe; a support of life – Lev. 26:26

iii) Used for correcting/prodding; walking & leaning on; a support – Heb. 11:21.

b) God was telling Moses to throw down his source of identity & power; support & defense; and completely trust in Yahweh!

2) V.4 – *“Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.”*

a) *We struggle not only in laying things down, but also in taking things up! – V.3 – “...and Moses fled from it.”*

i) *We must learn the bigger the challenge God lays before us, the greater the work He will do to accomplish it!*

ii) *Our focus shouldn't be on who we aren't & what we can't do, but on who God is & what He can do!*

iii) *“The will of God will never lead you, where the power of God can’t enable you.” – Warren Wiersbe*

b) ***So what is that in your hand that God is asking you to throw down and trust completely in Him???***

c) ***What is God is asking you to pick up that you’re hesitant about or running away from?***

B. Ex. 4:11-12, 15 – Assurance – *“Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and **teach** you what you shall say (and do).” – Ex. 3:12, 14 – “I will **certainly** be with you...I AM WHO I AM...I AM has sent me to you.”*

1) We struggle in taking up what God has given us to do b/c we don’t have all the answers **now**, but it’s in our ignorance that God teaches us not only **how** to accomplish His purpose, but more importantly how to trust Him.

2) Are God’s promises & presence enough for us to obey?

a) Heb. 11:8; Gen. 22:2-3 – Abraham went out not knowing where he was going.

b) Phil. 4:11-12; Hab. 3:17-18 – Paul **learned** to be content.

c) Ex. 24:12; Deut. 5:31 – Moses learned the commandments from God so he could teach them to the people.

d) Ps. 32:8 – God taught David in the way he should go.

e) Ps. 143:10 – David asked God to teach him how to do His will.

f) Luke 12:12; John 14:26 – The Holy Spirit will teach us all things.

i) *Learn to take God’s word with you wherever He sends you as a reminder of His promises & power – 4:17.*

C. Ex. 4:14 – Anger (Num. 11:1)