

Exodus 3:16–22

¹⁶ Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, ‘The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, “I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt;

¹⁷ and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.” ’

¹⁸ Then they will heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, ‘The LORD God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.’

¹⁹ But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand.

²⁰ So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.

²¹ And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed.

²² But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.”

Our Gift for Jesus, Part 2 **Exodus 3:13-22**

INTRO:

In this season, we think of giving. We are thinking both about the greatest gift ever given, the Lord Jesus Christ, and about the gift that we should give to Jesus. The gift our Lord desires is our hearts, our lives, and ourselves. In our meditation on this, we began to explore the difficulties we encounter in giving ourselves to the Lord to do what He wants us to do. We did this by eavesdropping on a conversation that Moses and the LORD had in the desert of Midian when God interrupted Moses’ life for a word from his Creator.

Last time, we looked at Moses' first response to the Lord's call that he should go to Pharaoh and bring God's people out of Egypt. Moses told God in effect, *"Who? Me? You've got to be kidding, LORD. I'm nobody with a history of failure. You can't possibly mean you want to use me."* Moses' thought God was looking for a "somebody," but God is looking for a "nobody" so that when the LORD blesses him and uses him, everyone would recognize the LORD did the miracle and not the man. A nobody plus God is somebody. God gave Moses two things in response to his objection. First, a great promise. *"I will be with you."* Second, the LORD gave a great sign. *"When you lead them out, you will worship me here on this very mountain."* Today we will look at excuse number two.

I. Moses Objects (v. 13)

II. God Overrules (v. 14-22)

I. Moses Objects (v. 13)

A. *"Then Moses said to God, 'Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?'"*

After God answered Moses' first objection, Moses would have to give in and go. However, Moses is not ready to give in to God yet.

1. He said something like, *"Lord, when I go and present myself to the leaders of Your people, they aren't going to be able to see You there with me. They are going to say to me, 'If God sent you, you will know who God is. You must know His name. What is God's name?'"*

2. This is a much stronger point than it appears on the surface. The Hebrew concept of name implied all a person was, the content of his character and who he really was. Remember **Acts 4:12**?

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Peter wasn't saying that there was magic in the name of Jesus. Jesus' name stood for all that He is and all that He said He was. Peter said there is no one else who could save. There is no other Savior only Jesus. In the same way, when Moses asked for God's name, he meant he wanted to know all there was to know about God.

3. Moses' objected, I can't go for you because the leaders of the people will ask me all kinds of deep theological questions about Who you are and I won't have the answers. I can't serve You because I don't know You well enough. Who are You?

B. Do we ever use this “out” with God? *“Lord, I can’t serve you because I don’t know you well enough.”*

1. Moses may have had legitimate grounds for his objection. He did not have a Bible to seek out the Lord. On the other hand, we have the complete revelation of God right here in our hands. It is even in our language. All we have to do is read and study it.

2. Don’t you love to sing songs that express our love for Jesus? You know songs like, *“My Jesus I love thee, I know thou art mine”* and *“Oh how I love Jesus.”* Sometimes I get convicted when I sing these songs because, although I say I love Him with my lips, I don’t spend nearly enough time really getting to know Him in His Word. If I really loved Him as I should, I would know Him even better than I do. The Lord wants us to know Him well, just as He wanted Moses to know Him.

Look at how the LORD overruled this objection from His reluctant leader.

II. God Overrules (v. 14-22)

Exodus 3:14–16 *“And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ Moreover God said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The LORD 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, and this is My memorial to all generations.’” Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, ‘The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, “I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt.”’*

A. The LORD’s answer to Moses is in two parts. First, He gave Moses a revelation of Himself. *“God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’” “And He said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”* God also said to Moses, *“Say this to the people of Israel, ‘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, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations”* Moses, this is Who I am. I AM THAT I AM.

B. What does this name mean? Hebrew scholars translate it many ways. However we translate it, the name says at three least things. First, it means that God is the eternally self-existent GOD. No one made God. He has no beginning and no end. We conclude God had to have a beginning because everything in our experience had a beginning and will have an end. We are because something else is. This is the

wonder of God. HE IS BECAUSE HE IS! No one created Him. He is the source of everything else. No one taught Him. He is the fountainhead of all knowledge. No one gave Him life. All life comes from Him. He is the Eternal One. As Jesus Himself, said, ***“Before Abraham was, I AM”***

1. Second, it means God is the eternally present One. He is and always is. He was present for Abraham when he left Ur of the Chaldees and went to a land he had never been before. He was present for Isaac and provided him a wife from his own people and answered his prayer for sons to carry on his line. He was present when Jacob met Esau after many years in the house of Laban. He was there for Joseph in the pit, Potiphar’s house, prison, and as vice regent to Pharaoh King of Egypt. If He is the ***“I AM”*** for the fathers, He will always be the ***“I AM”*** for Moses to bring Israel out of Egypt and into the land of promise. He will be the ever present one for us too. Remember **Psalm 46:1?**

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

2. Third, this meant God didn’t really need Moses to do this job for Him. The LORD gave Moses a tremendous blessing letting him be the tool of the deliverance. If God made everything, and everything exists because of Him, then God needs nothing and no one. God did not call Moses because He was hard up for people to be deliverers. God called Moses out of Grace. God doesn’t need us either. The LORD does not love us because He needs us. He loves us because He wants to love us. He can do anything He wants. What He did was to give us the blessing and privilege of serving Him.

C. The LORD revealed Himself to Moses and now He demanded a specific response.

vs.16-21 “Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, ‘The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, “I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt; and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.”Then they will heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, ‘The LORD God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.’ But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go. And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed.”

D. Often when the Lord gives someone a glimpse of Who He is, He demands of that person a response in his or her life. Remember in **Genesis 17:1**?

“When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty. Walk before Me, and be blameless.””

The principle here is that our theology should change the way we live. Look at what the LORD told Moses to do with this truth.

1. **(v.16-17)** Go gather the leaders of Israel and share this revelation with them. God’s revelation is not to be hoarded but broadcast to others.

2. **(v.18-19)** You need not fear, Moses, the leaders will believe you and go with you to Pharaoh. But Pharaoh won’t let you go right away.

3. **(v.20-22)** I will do wonders in Egypt and after that Pharaoh will let you go. You will not leave empty handed, I will provide for you.

E. Let me play Paul Harvey and briefly show you a little bit of the “Rest of the Story.”

In **Exodus 6:1-8**, Moses did what God asked him to do and the short term results are not good. Pharaoh concluded the Jews had too much idle time and increased their burden. Because of this, the leaders of the Children of Israel are angry with Moses. Moses rushed into the presence of the LORD in **Exodus 5:22-23**. Listen to how the LORD responded to Moses. I want to remind you about the importance of ***“My name.”***

6:1-8 ***“I am going to teach you what My name means and when this is all done, you, all of Israel and Pharaoh himself will know who Yahweh, the great “I AM THAT I AM,” is.”***

What Do We Learn From This?

1. **Have we learned the lesson God taught Moses?** Do we know who He is? Do we recognize the LORD is the self-existent One and that all things came from Him? Do we consciously recognize that everything we are and have we owe to His grace?

2. **Do we realize that He is the eternally present One?** Do we know that as He was with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses, He is also with us? He is right there with us in the midst of the struggles of life.

3. **Do we recognize what a privilege it is to serve the LORD?** He does not need us. Yet, He loved us, saved us, and now wants to use us to glorify Himself. Do we know Him as our Savior? Are we His people and is He our God? Don’t be reluctant to give yourself to Him this Christmas season.

Hymn #176 *Lead Me to Calvary*