

*Morning Sermon March 21, 2021
Weakness & Fear - Exodus 4:10-17*

I. Moses' fear and reluctance –

1. God was calling Moses to a great task –

¹⁰ **Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” Exodus 3:10 (NKJV)**

2. Moses was NOT feeling up to it –

¹¹ **But Moses said to God, “Who *am* I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” Exodus 3:11 (NKJV)**

3. God promised to be with Moses –

¹² **So He said, “I will certainly be with you. Exodus 3:12 (NKJV)**

¹² **Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.” Exodus 4:12 (NKJV)**

4. God showed Moses wonders, which he (Moses) would be able to use ...

A. His rod a snake – Exodus 4:2-5

B. His leprous, non-leprous hand – Exodus 4:6-8

C. Turning water to blood – Exodus 4:9

*5. However, none of this meant a thing to Moses, he **FEARED** public speaking, because he was not eloquent –*

¹⁰ **Then 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.” Exodus 4:10 (NKJV)**

A. Because of this, I identified with Moses more than anyone else in Scripture, preaching was my great fear!

B. Public speaking is a fear of many –

According to the Institute of Mental Health 74% of all people have some level of fear of public speaking 73% of men and 75% of women.

For almost 20% the fear of public speaking rates as a phobia (a great fear – Moses and myself)

Top 10 Phobias

1. Public Speaking or Stage Freight – 19%
2. Death and End of Life – 16%
3. Spiders and other Arachnids Creatures – 13%
4. Darkness and Twilight – 12%
5. Heights, Altitudes, and Elevations – 11%
6. People and Social Situations – 10%
7. Flying in Airplanes – 7%
8. Open Spaces and Squares – 5%
9. Natural Thunder and Lightning – 4%
10. Confined Spaces and Small Rooms – 3%

C. Moses was never Charlton Heston!

D. Moses' fear reached the point of being sinful, as is it threatened his confidence in God, rousing God's anger –

¹¹ **So 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?* ¹² Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.” ¹³ But he said, “O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever *else* You may send.” ¹⁴ So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, ... Exodus 4:11–14 A (NKJV)**

II. While Moses' lack of speaking ability is a weakness, God tends to choose and use weak people –

¹¹ **So 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?* ¹² Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.” Exodus 4:11–12 (NKJV)**

1. God chooses weak and limited people because they give Him the glory, the Corinthians were such –

²⁶ **For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called.* ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the**

things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence.³⁰ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—³¹ that, as it is written, “*He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.*” 1 Corinthians 1:26–31 (NKJV)

A. *David was such an opponent to Goliath –*

³³ And Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.” 1 Samuel 17:33

⁴² And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was *only* a youth, ruddy and good-looking.⁴³ So the Philistine said to David, “*Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?*” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 1 Samuel 17:42–43 (NKJV)

B. *Yet, in Pharaoh and Egypt you might say Moses faced an even greater enemy than David did in Goliath and the Philistines, Goliath desired to make Israel slaves to the Philistines, Pharaoh already had that seeming power over God’s people –*

² And Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.” Exodus 5:2 (NKJV)

¹⁹ But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. Exodus 3:19 (NKJV)

III. *We face even more powerful enemies than Goliath and / or Pharaoh in sin and Satan –*

1. *Sin (even more than Pharaoh) has men in its powerful grip, it WILL NOT easily let them (us) go –*

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.**” John 8:34 (NKJV)

2. *This is a worse slavery than Egypt because sin and Satan are deceptive powers, they make people THINK they are FREE and maybe even SAVED, when they are NOT –*

²⁹ And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”³⁰ As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed

Him, “**If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.**”³² **And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**”³³ They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘**You will be made free**’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.**”³⁵ **And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.**³⁶ **Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.** John 8:29–36 (NKJV)

A. *What was the “truth” that might have made them free? First, that they were SLAVES to sin! How can you be free if you do not even realize you are in bondage?*

B. *Our being set free from sin is a process, empowered by God, even the Apostle Paul, as a believer, struggled with sin –*

²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. Romans 7:21-25

3. *Unbelievers are not only slaves of sin, but they are blinded, children of Satan –*

³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake.⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:3–6 (NKJV)

4. *This is why when we preach, we do not lie –*

¹⁴ They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ When *there is no peace.* Jeremiah 6:14 (NKJV)

John 8:32 - ⁴⁴ **You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.**⁴⁵ **But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.** John 8:44–45 (NKJV) Ephesians 2:1-3 Ephesians 6:10-12

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