

Chapter 4

4:13 But he said, “O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send.”

What can be said about this from Moses’ perspective?

1. God couldn’t find someone closer?
2. God couldn’t find someone younger?
3. God couldn’t find someone interested?

What are some things that are not true of us?

1. We are confronted with “sightings of God”.
2. We are not being asked to deliver multitudes and multitudes of people.
3. We are typically not this old when we hear of God’s calling in life.

What are some timeless truths about this passage?

1. God still directs us.
2. We still feel unable.
3. We are basically unwilling at times and make excuses.

An unwilling mind will take up with a sorry excuse rather than none, and is willing to devolve those services upon others that have anything of difficulty or danger in them.¹

4. We still whine.
5. God still gets irritated.
6. Grace is still available to us...if we’ll trust (4:11).
7. God may adjust His plan somewhat (he includes Aaron in the verses to follow).

Loving the obvious knowledge Jonah had about this drama (Jonah 4 seemingly reference of Exodus 33), I was thankful for this thought/chart:

In Jonah’s case the pattern is similar to that found here in Exod 4:

God calls prophet to preach in a foreign land	Exodus 3:4–10	Jonah 1:1–2
Prophet tries to refuse	Exodus 4:13	Jonah 1:3
Divine death penalty nearly imposed during travels	Exodus 4:24	Jonah 1:4–15
Prophet learns his lesson	Exodus 4:25	Jonah 2:1–10 [also 1:12]
God spares him	Exodus 4:26	Jonah 1:17
God renews the call	Exodus 4:27–28	Jonah 3:1
Prophet finally cooperates with calling	Exodus 4:29–30 et passim	Jonah 3:3–4
Call comes to successful fruition	Exodus 4:31 et passim	Jonah 3:5–10 ²

¹Matthew Henry, [*Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*](#) (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 101.

²Douglas K. Stuart, [*Exodus*](#), vol. 2, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006), 136.