
The Writer's Inkhorn

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Continuing Reflections on the Word for Your Personal Growth in Christ

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What Will You Do with What You've Been Given?



There is a portion of a very familiar story from the Old Testament that I'd like to draw to your attention in this issue. There is a **specific conversation** that occurs within the context of the unfolding of this story that I want to lift up as being particularly relevant to many of us. So, what I want you to do throughout this issue is to keep looking for yourself in the conversation.

We tend to remember the big events from the stories in Scripture, but we often forget that the people God used in bringing about the big events were people like us – people who struggled with their feelings of inadequacy just as we do. Oh, we may put on some rather fine masks for the public, but when we are all alone and just talking to God, and He is talking to us, we often feel the task is much too big for our meager talents. But let me assure you that God is actually **quite knowledgeable** of you, and how He has uniquely equipped you to do the job He has called or is calling you to do.

In chapters 3 and 4 of Exodus, we read where God is about to set in motion the events leading up to the deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. There was quite a **conversation** that occurred between God and Moses. In fact, the relationship between these two is one that both **intrigues** and **amuses** me because it shows that their friendship is so

natural and personal. And I know that, even now, our Father longs to have a personal relationship with each of His children. God's desire is that we run **to** Him in love rather than run **from** Him in fear.

Our **conversation** begins in the 3rd chapter of Exodus and continues into chapter four. I'll do some summarizing of what went on, from time to time, but remember what I want **you** to do is to keep looking for *yourself* in the conversation.

God begins by telling Moses at the outset, He has **seen** the affliction of His people in Egypt, He has **heard** their cry, He **knows** their sorrows, and has **come down** to deliver them. * And, He has also come to solicit Moses' help. Now, if God was going to do this alone, this conversation with Moses would probably not be taking place, would it? Moses seems to think, however, that God must surely be mistaken in wanting **him** to be a part of this plan, even though God has already laid out the rationale (that is, His people are under oppression). Moses raises **five** objections, and God, in turn, answers each one of them.

1. Vs 3:11. The first thing Moses says is, "Who am **I** that **I** should go to Pharaoh...?" God answers, "Certainly, I will be with you." You see, the issue is not who I am, but Whose I am, and Who He is. If God is **with** us, and **for** us, then that not only makes us somebody, but it also enables us to do the task that is at hand.

What is this saying to *you*? *God can use you, no matter how small and insignificant you think you are.*

2. **Vs 3:13.** The second objection Moses raises is really a question to God: "If they ask me what is Your name, what shall I say to them?" God answers, "Tell them 'I AM' sent you." I don't think things have changed much for us. We are still reluctant to say we were sent by God – to a place, to a person. Somehow, that seems a little hokey, a little too “deep” for us.

But *I* say to *you*, *God can use you, if you'll just say what He puts into your heart and mouth to say.*

3. **Vs 4:1.** The third objection Moses raises is about the people: "They will not believe me, they won't listen, and they will say, 'The Lord hasn't told you anything.'" It sounds like Moses knew people pretty well, don't you think? But the issue was not Moses' credibility, but **God's credibility and power**, so God answers this objection *with* a question and an object lesson. He asks Moses, "What is in your hand? Yes, that stick, rod, shepherd's staff – it is all the same to Me. Let Me show you what I can do with it."

So He gives Moses a couple of demonstrations with the rod turning into a serpent and then back into a rod, and Moses' hand turning leprous, and back to normal. God basically says, "Show them *that* and they'll believe."

And God says to *you*, *He can use you if you just believe in Him and what He can do through you with what He has already given you.* (Put a bookmark here; we'll come back to this.)

4. **Vs 4:10.** Moses now raises his fourth objection: "I am not eloquent." God answers, "Who made man's mouth, *or* the dumb, *or* deaf, *or* seeing, *or* blind? Just go, and *I'll* teach you what to say."

God has made you, too, and He knows what your abilities are. He knows that He has equipped you for a *particular* task **and** He knows *how* He has designed that task for you. In other words, you and your God-assigned tasks are *always* a perfect match.

So I say to you, *God can use you, regardless of any disability or inability you think you have.*

5. **Vs 4:13.** Moses tries one last time. You can tell that he has run out of excuses, so he just tells God, in essence, "Please, Lord, send someone else." At this point it is quite clear in the text that God has had enough, and He answers, in so many words, "Moses, you are really making me angry. I *am* sending whom I will send. That's you. Get it? Your brother, Aaron, the Levite, speaks very well and he can go *with* you, but *you*, go!"

Don't offer God every conceivable excuse before you come to the realization that He is calling *you* – personally, and will **not** take “no” for an answer.

Get this: *God can use whomever He chooses to use, and that includes you.* Instead, be honored that He has chosen to use you. It could have been otherwise.

God asked **me**, "Why is it okay for people to complain and beat themselves up and make excuses about what talents He has or has not given them?" So, **I** ask *you*, "How dare we regard what God has put in **our** hands as nothing? How dare we *undervalue* what we

do have, and *overvalue* what we *don't* have and someone *else does*? Thou shalt *not* covet!

It is **not** a mark of humility to **deny** the presence of a gift we have received from God. Do you know that once God and Moses got past all the objections, this is the very thing that God came back to? In chapter 4:17, God reminds Moses again, "And you are to take this **rod that is in your hand** to do signs."

This rod that is in **your** hand – what *is* it? Ask God to let you see it clearly. As God asked Moses, so I must ask **you**, "What is in **your** hand? What is **your** rod? What gifts or talents has God given *you*?" What will **you** do with what **you** have been given? You see, God wants you to know that *whatever* He has put in **your** hands is to be used to accomplish **His** purpose in **His** kingdom in **your** lifetime.

God does not judge our worth by our external circumstances or our perceived value in the eyes of others. It is not the size or the sophistication of our gifts and talents that are the critical factors. It is, rather, our willingness to yield them to God, Who can multiply their effectiveness for **His** service.

Look in God's word for examples. Remember David's slingshot? When others see a mere slingshot, God sees a giant-slayer. Remember the little boy's lunch? When others see a two-piece fish pack, Jesus sees a meal for thousands. When others see a harmless baby in a basket, or a baby in a manger, God sees a deliverer and a Savior.

What excuses are **you** offering God? Are you too young? Too short? Too old? Too rich? Too unaccustomed to dealing with *those* kinds of people? Yes, the world – **our** world is still full of problems and oppression. But it is also filled with possibilities because of you. What will **you** do to make a difference? What

will **you** give? What sacrifices will **you** make? What has God been telling **you**? And what have you been saying back to Him? Have you been secretly telling Him you have other plans, and to please get someone else?

When **will** you use your gifts and talents? **When?** What are you *saving* them for? Surely – **surely** you are not saving your talents for heaven, when down here is where they are most needed. Here is a newsflash for you: you probably won't need them *in* heaven, anyway!

Will you be one that God can use in such a time as this? The task is *still* the deliverance of God's people from oppression. Inasmuch as God sent Moses, and He sent Jesus, He also wants to send you and me. More than Isaiah needs to answer that call. God has called **all** of us – **all believers** – to be His ambassadors in this fallen world **in every sphere of society**. He has uniquely equipped each of us for our parts in His overall plan.

Know that God sees each of us as we **can** be. Yes, He knows your **history**; yet, He chooses to speak to your **destiny**. So, what are **you** going to do with what you have been given? When will you allow the power of God to activate that rod that is in **your** hand to do miracles and wonders in peoples' lives?

We should be feeling a sense of urgency right about now, to do *whatever* we can in the time we have remaining, since none of us knows how much time that is. What can be more urgent than the fact that our children are dying in the streets. In Jeremiah 9:21, the prophet declared,

*For death is come up into our windows,
and is entered into our palaces, to cut
off the children from without, and the
young men from the streets.*

Do you know that those words were written nearly 2700 years ago?! You would have thought they were a present prophetic utterance, since it is in the news more and more in these recent days that death is claiming the lives of our sons and daughters at alarming rates.

Nehemiah said to his people: “**Fight** for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your houses.” Our times are troubled and perilous. There is much work to be done in the kingdom. Will you go out into your **neighborhood**, out *of* your **city**, your **church**, your **denomination**, your **country** to **wherever** your faith leads you, to minister and serve? Wherever we are, we are all ministers of the love of God, the saving power of Jesus Christ, and abundant life in the Spirit.

Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 9:37-38:

The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest.

Will you be one? There is a harvest of souls out there and a harvest of needs and Jesus saves us not to deliver us from everything in life that is not to our liking, but He shows us how we should live out our discipleship in the midst of our own historical times and circumstances, and our own socio-political realities.

When and *if* and *because* I become a disciple of Christ, I am not exempt from the vicissitudes of life nor from the work of the kingdom. The beauty of the power of the gospel of Jesus is its ability to **change** us, to **transform** us where we are, even as we work to change, to transform that part of God's

vineyard where we will find ourselves as co-laborers.

Just as we are called to be disciples *of* Christ, we are also called to be **co-workers with** Christ. Ask God to give you a deeper level of understanding of what you are called to do in **this** life. Thousands of years ago, Solomon put it this way in Ecclesiastes 9:10:

Whatsoever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, where you are going.

A thousand years later, the Apostle John put it this way in St. John 9:4: *I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day, for when night comes, no man can work.* Do you get the feeling that whatever work we are going to do **for** the kingdom and in this earthly realm **of** the kingdom needs to be done now? If you get that, you have got it.

There is a song that was written for the children of FCA when I was principal, and the chorus may be familiar to you. It goes like this:

Lord, I'm available to you. My will I give to you; I'll do what you say do; use me, Lord, to show someone the way, then enable me to say, my storage is empty and I am available to you.

It is my prayer that you will heed His call to be available for whatever He has for you to do. *Nothing else* matters more.

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You may now read the *Writer's Inkhorn* online at www.marywebstermoore.com/devotional

