

## GOD'S ANSWERS TO OUR EXCUSES

### EXODUS 4:1-13

#### I. Excuse: "What If I Fail" (v. 1)

##### A. "What If I Fail" reveals we are too concerned about ourselves.

Two truths Moses needed to understand before he could be used by God:

1. Moses needed to know that whatever the task God gave him, He would be with him and empower him to do it (1 Thess. 5:24).
2. Moses needed to know that success is not measured in the results, but in obedience to God (1 Cor. 4:2).

##### B. Seven Common Excuses

1. I can't! Gideon would love to weigh in on this excuse (Jud. 6).
2. I don't know how! Do you think Noah knew how to build an ark (Gen. 6)?
3. I don't have time! See how Jesus liked this excuse in Luke 9:57-62.
4. I'm all alone! Elijah thought He was alone (1 Kings 19).
5. I'm afraid! Could we learn anything here from Esther (Esther 3)?
6. I can't afford it! Tell this excuse to the disciples who picked up 12 baskets of leftover bread and fish in John 6:1-14.
7. I won't! How did this excuse work for Jonah (Jonah 1-4)?

#### II. Excuse: "I Have Nothing to Offer" (v. 2)

##### A. Moses had "a rod" (v. 2).

- What gifts and abilities has God blessed you with? Maybe it's life experiences or talents that need to be used for kingdom work.

➤ Three steps to discovering how God can use you in His service:

a. Give your “rod” to God (v. 3a).

b. Allow God to expose your “rod” for what it is (v. 3b).

c. Flee from the sin God exposes in your life (v. 3b).

B. When Moses acknowledged “his rod” for what it was (vv. 3-5), God took control of it and changed its name “this rod” and purpose (v. 17).

1. God will provide when we are serving Him (v. 4).

2. God will be glorified when we are serving Him (vv. 5, 17).

C. The people came to know Moses’ rod as “the rod of God” (v. 20).

1. When used for God’s purposes anything can be “the rod of God.”

2. Moses knew that God used his rod, but that the rod was not God! The rod was a tool, but God was the power behind Moses.

III. Excuse: “I’m Unable” (v. 10)

A. Excuses reflect our perceived inability and not God’s ability.

➤ After all the signs that God has given Moses to perform (vv. 4-9), he’s still making excuses why he’s not the man for the job (v. 10). Moses was still looking at his PERCEIVED inability rather than God’s ability.

B. God desires our availability, not our perceived ability.

1. What was God’s answer to Moses’ excuse? “Who do you think gave you your mouth” (v. 11)? “You go. I will speak through you and teach you what to say” (v. 12).

2. Here is a powerful encouragement to us as believers. All God requires is our availability NOT our ability, but are we available?

3. Three simple words to guide you when sharing your faith.
  - a. ASK people to tell you their story.
  - b. LISTEN to people's stories but listen with the gospel story in mind.
  - c. SPEAK - Once we have listened well, we can begin to speak gospel truth into their story in a way they can understand and will hear.

#### IV. Excuse: "It's Someone Else's Job" (v. 13)

##### A. Whose job is it (Isa. 6:8)?

1. When we're unwilling to serve, we tend to use the excuse that "It's someone else's job."
2. Instead of a journey of faith, Moses would rather pass on God's plan because of fear, lack of faith, or he just would rather not be bothered.

##### B. Three assumptions of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20).

..., "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:18-20).

1. The Great Commission assumes that I actually care about those who don't know Jesus.
2. The Great Commission assumes that I am actually building relationships with people not like me so that I may be the bridge that leads them to Jesus.
3. The Great Commission assumes that I will not be silent about what Christ has done in my life.