

Slides 1-12, as I read the Scripture

BODY

- I. Before we launch into the main text, we need to remember something important: God calls specific people according to His purposes. **(Slide 13)**
 - a. This vignette is part of a larger narrative, and with the exception of perhaps Proverbs, it is essential whenever we're reading the Bible to understand the broader context of what's being conveyed in the smaller part.
 - b. In this case we must refer back to God's calling Moses (3:7-10) **(Slides 14-15)**
 - c. While we are not Moses called to lead God's people out of Egypt and toward the land of promise, God has called each and every one of us to something specific in our lives.
 - i. Moses called to lead God's people
 - ii. David called to be king
 - iii. Esther called "for such a time as this" to be a queen of Persia to save God's people
 - iv. The prophets called to proclaim judgment and deliverance
 - v. The apostles called to proclaim the gospel throughout the world
 - vi. All disciples called to make disciples, and that means us!
 1. In our own lives
 2. In our homes
 - a. Parents and children
 - b. Husbands and wives
 - c. Siblings
 3. In our workplaces
 4. In our coming and in our going
 - d. However, if we're honest with ourselves, we often react to that calling the same way that Moses did.
 - i. It's hard!
 - ii. However, that brings us to the second important aspect of this passage.
 - II. God is patient with the questions and uncertainties of those He calls. **(Slide 16)**
 - a. Moses expresses his inadequacy before God (3:11) **(Slide 17)**
 - i. "Who am I?" indicates a right acknowledgement of God's supremacy and our inadequacy before Him
 1. Moses knows he's not enough.
 2. Neither are we.
 - ii. God assures Moses He will be with him. (3:12)

- b. Moses expresses questions about whether he will be believed (4:1) **(Slide 18)**
 - i. God gives him *three* signs to pass to the Hebrews (4:2-9) **(Slides 19-21)**
 - 1. God gave him a sign to hold onto for the future (3:12)
 - ii. “What will be the sign?” was a question of authentication in Hebrew culture
 - 1. Moses (the serpents and the hand)
 - 2. Joshua (the sun standing still)
 - 3. Gideon (the fleece)
 - 4. Hezekiah (the shadow going backwards)
 - 5. Zacharias (mute until John was born)
 - 6. The Pharisees (the sign of Jonah)
 - iii. This is a clear demonstration of God’s authentic message.
 - 1. Three signs represent a clear repetition and hammering home of this point.
 - iv. Still, as it wasn’t enough for the Hebrews, it’s not enough for Moses either.
 - c. Moses expresses uncertainty in about his fitness for the task (4:10) **(Slide 22)**
 - d. God’s response (4:11-12)
 - i. Moses doesn’t need to spout his qualifications.
 - ii. God made him, He knows all of Moses’ strengths and weaknesses
 - e. Out of excuses, Moses gives up! (4:13) **(Slide 23)**
 - f. How many times do we feel God leading us to something but then second-guess it?
 - i. I’m not smart enough
 - ii. I’m don’t know what to say
 - iii. I’m afraid to look ridiculous
 - iv. I feel utterly unprepared
- III. God will give those He calls every tool necessary to walk out the calling placed on their lives – most importantly, that He will be with them. **(Slide 24)**
- a. This starts in an interesting place.
 - b. God’s anger burns against Moses for his disobedience (4:14)
 - i. First time God demonstrates anger in this entire sequence
 - ii. Not that God’s patience is running out
 - iii. The excuses are gone, but Moses has gone from “I can’t” to “I won’t”
 - iv. This crosses over from doubt into disobedience
 - v. “I’m not going to obey and give you glory through these actions.”
 - vi. The questions are fine and in many cases highly appropriate

- vii. Once we know what God wants of us, however, the time for questions is over and the time for obedience has come
- viii. God is big enough to handle questions, but disobedience requires a different confrontation
- c. Nevertheless, God continues to be with Moses and to equip Moses for the task (4:14-17)
 - i. God provides him a speaker and an audience
 - 1. God addresses Moses' problem about speech with an eloquent speaker
 - 2. God addresses Moses' problem about not being believed when he speaks
 - a. Aaron will receive Moses **(Slide 25)**
 - b. Aaron, familiar with the Israelites, will speak to them for Moses **(Slide 26)**
 - ii. God promises to be with them both
 - 1. God will give them the words to say
 - 2. God will teach them what to do
 - a. Hebrew word Torah
 - b. Torah is the Jewish term for the Pentateuch, or the first five books of the Bible that tell their story and what they do in response
 - 3. This is going to become a lifestyle
 - iii. God then reiterates the command to go
- d. The most important reminder is that "I will be with you."
 - i. Hokey cliché: You + God = a majority
 - 1. It's true, though often we don't live like it.
 - ii. We live as though we are inadequate and don't trust God's presence in our callings. **(Slide 27)**
 - iii. The reality is that God positions his people to work in the midst of weakness. **(Slide 28)**
 - 1. One theme throughout Scripture is God using the weak to confound the strong.
 - a. Sometimes it's a positional weakness
 - i. Joseph
 - ii. Naomi/Ruth
 - iii. Esther
 - iv. Daniel
 - b. Sometimes it's a physical weakness
 - i. Ehud
 - ii. Paul
 - c. Sometimes it's a character weakness
 - i. Abraham
 - ii. Jacob

- iii. Jonah
- iv. Peter
- 2. If God only called and used the perfect speaker, the perfect tactician, the perfect logician, or the perfect person, we're all in trouble.
- iv. The amazing thing is that as much as God was with Moses and gave him every tool necessary to represent Him before both the Egyptians and the Israelites, God is with us and gives us every tool necessary as well!
 - 1. Eph. 1:3, blessed with every spiritual blessing
 - 2. Chosen in Christ, sealed with the Spirit within us
 - 3. Our future is sure, so we need not worry so much about the present.
 - 4. When we are face-to-face with God, what will He say?

APPLYING THE WORD (Slide 29)

- IV. Questions for us to ponder
 - a. Do I know God's calling on my life? Have I even asked?
 - b. Am I walking obediently in God's calling on my life? Or am I making excuses and being disobedient?

Come to the Table (Slide 30)