

## **PROBLEMS, EXCUSES, THE SOLUTION**

### **Exodus 3:10-4:11**

**Introduction:** God's people were enslaved to Egypt and had been for some 300 years. God had a plan to bring His people out of Egypt and it involved a man named Moses. We are all familiar with the background of Moses, the little basket in the river, being taken into the royal family as an infant and being raised to someday perhaps be the next Pharaoh, king of all Egypt. He discovered that he was really an Israelite, not an Egyptian and eventually ended up in a far country tending the flocks of a man whose daughter he married. We also remember that one day Moses encountered God on the side of a mountain and the conversation that took place there between God and Moses and that is the background of this message, "Problems, Excuses, and the Solution." The situation was that God's people were enslaved and God wanted Moses to lead them to freedom.

### **I. THERE WAS A PROBLEM WITH IDENTITY**

1. Moses wasn't pleased with God's wanting him to be the one to lead the people to freedom.
  - Moses gave the excuse of being so sinful.
  - He also mentioned that he was getting too old, in his 80's.
  - He had a bad reputation for he had killed a man.
  - He had a family to care for and was being asked to leave his family.
  - Who of us is "qualified" to do God's work? Is there any of us sinless or perfect?
2. God answered Moses' excuses with "I'll be there with you..."
  - Anytime anyone does work for God, problems will be sure to come.
  - God's work must be what/how God wants, not how anybody else might think.
  - Nothing less than God's presence will be of any help in doing God work.
  - We, too, give all sorts of excuses for not wanting to get too involved in doing God's work

### **II. THERE WAS A PROBLEM OF AUTHORITY**

1. Moses knew that no Pharaoh would listen to him, so he wanted to know in whose authority he was going to be doing all those things and going before the Pharaoh.
  - Whose name was he going in?
  - Whose authority was saying "let the people go?"
  - Whose authority do we do God's work in today?
2. God answered Moses that "I AM" has sent you.
  - The ONLY God was sending Moses.
  - The ONLY God sends us out today, not a church, seminary, preacher or any institution, it is in the name of JEHOVAH that we go and do God's work.
  - To personally know the one, true God is to have a more awesome knowledge than to have a cure for some dread disease.

### **III. THERE WAS A PROBLEM OF CREDIBILITY**

1. Moses told God that nobody would believe him or anything he had to say, even if God sent him.
  - Nobody would listen to me before.
  - I made no impact on anybody before, I was run off.
2. God answered Moses by asking him what he had in his hand.
  - Moses had his shepherd's staff (a stick).
  - God turned the staff into a serpent, then back into a staff. Later on God used the staff to turn into a serpent again, then parted the Red Sea then got water from a rock, and many other wonderful things.
3. What do you and I have? Don't we have more than a stick? Don't we have the Holy Spirit within us and have been given at least one super natural gift to be used in doing God's work?
4. If you let God use you completely, what can you become in God's hands? Is there any limit?

### **IV. THERE WAS THE PROBLEM OF INCAPABILITY**

1. Moses complained, made the excuse that he was just not the man God needed.
  - He was not gifted, couldn't speak in public, was a bit shy, etc.
  - What excuses do we make along the same thought of being incapable, God has the wrong person for this particular job?
2. God answered, "I'll be with you."
  - A reminder to us, who made our eyes, ears, mouth?
  - Who heals the blind, deaf, crippled, etc.?
  - Is it not God, not us?
  - Jesus gave us a great commission to go into our world and preach, teach, baptize those who would listen, hear and believe in Him, and "Lo, I'll be with you...."

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. God had faith in Moses, God has faith in YOU also.
2. God led Moses, God will lead US as well.
3. Without God, Moses would have been unable to do what was done. So it is today with us as well, without God, we can't do what God wants us to do.
4. God will be with us in all that He has for us to do and we will never be alone, on our own.