



# THE STORY OF MOSES

## PART 4: HESITATION

RICHARD BROWN

# EXODUS 3:10 – 4:18

NIV

<sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

<sup>12</sup> And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

# EXODUS 3:10 – 4:18

NIV

<sup>13</sup> Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

# EXODUS 3:10 – 4:18

NIV

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’

“This is my name forever,  
the name you shall call me  
from generation to generation.

# EXODUS 3:10 – 4:18

NIV

<sup>16</sup> “Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. <sup>17</sup> And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.’

# EXODUS 3:10 – 4:18

NIV

<sup>18</sup> “The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God.’ <sup>19</sup> But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. <sup>20</sup> So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

# EXODUS 3:10 – 4:18

NIV

<sup>21</sup> “And I will make the Egyptians favourably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. <sup>22</sup> Every woman is to ask her neighbour and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians.”

# EXODUS 3:10 – 4:18

NIV

4 Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you’?”

2 Then the Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?”

“A staff,” he replied.

3 The Lord said, “Throw it on the ground.”

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it.



# EXODUS 3:10 – 4:18

NIV

<sup>4</sup> Then the Lord said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. <sup>5</sup> “This,” said the Lord, “is so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.”

# EXODUS 3:10 – 4:18

NIV

<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow.

<sup>7</sup> “Now put it back into your cloak,” he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.

# EXODUS 3:10 – 4:18

NIV

<sup>8</sup> Then the Lord said, “If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second. <sup>9</sup> But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground.”

# EXODUS 3:10 – 4:18

NIV

<sup>10</sup> Moses said to the Lord, “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”

<sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? <sup>12</sup> Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

# EXODUS 3:10 – 4:18

NIV

<sup>13</sup> But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.” <sup>14</sup> Then the Lord’s anger burned against Moses and he said, “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. <sup>15</sup> You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. <sup>16</sup> He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him.

# EXODUS 3:10 – 4:18

NIV

<sup>17</sup> But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it.”

<sup>18</sup> Then Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, “Let me return to my own people in Egypt to see if any of them are still alive.”

Jethro said, “Go, and I wish you well.”

# HESITATION

1. Who am I?
2. Who are you?
3. What if they don't believe me?
4. I don't have what it takes
5. Send someone else

For each of these, what is the takeaway?



# WHO AM I?

- “Who am I to stand before Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”
- How can a shepherd stand before a king?
- I failed last time; what should I get a second chance?
- I’m not worthy





# WHO AM I?

- “Why me?” is a reasonable question to ask.
- However, we should be careful of false humility
- We are worthy of the call because God has made us so.



# WHO AM I?

- God's answer to all of this:
- *"I will be with you..."*
- **Takeaway 1**  
If God is calling me, he will go with me.



# WHO ARE YOU?

- “*What is your name?*”
- The Israelites were surrounded by Egyptian gods, all of which had names.
- God’s answer: “*I am who I am*”  
(*I will be who I will be*)



# WHO ARE YOU?

- Names in the Bible speak of the character of the person.
- Yahweh (YHWH) – self existent eternal God who wants a relationship with his chosen people
- The Lord, the God of your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.





# WHO ARE YOU?

- **Takeaway 2**  
If God is with me, I have everything I need.



# WHAT IF THEY DON'T BELIEVE ME?

- Why didn't he ask *“What if Pharaoh doesn't believe me?”*
- Moses seems more concerned about his own people not following or accepting him.



# WHAT IF THEY DON'T BELIEVE ME?

- God doesn't respond by saying *"Of course they will believe you..."*
- God validates Moses' call by his own miraculous power.
  - Staff: grasping the serpent
  - Leprosy: cleansing of the heart
  - Nile: judgement



# WHAT IF THEY DON'T BELIEVE ME?

- **Takeaway 3**

What I CAN'T DO, God will do





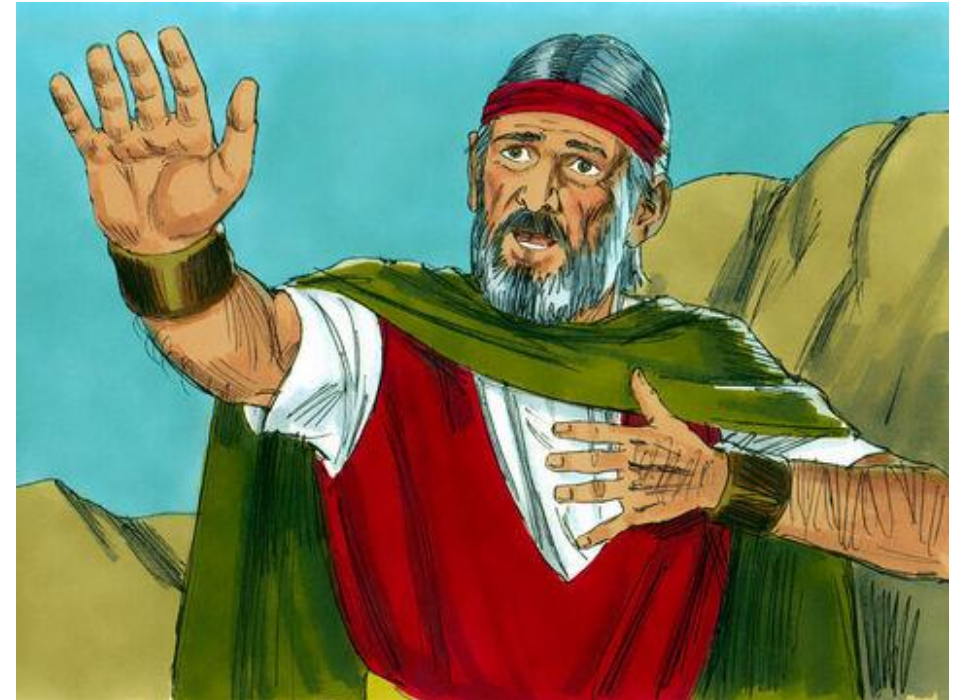
# I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES

- *“I’ve never been eloquent...”*
- God didn’t ask for eloquence, simply to speak his word.
- *“I am slow of speech and tongue”*



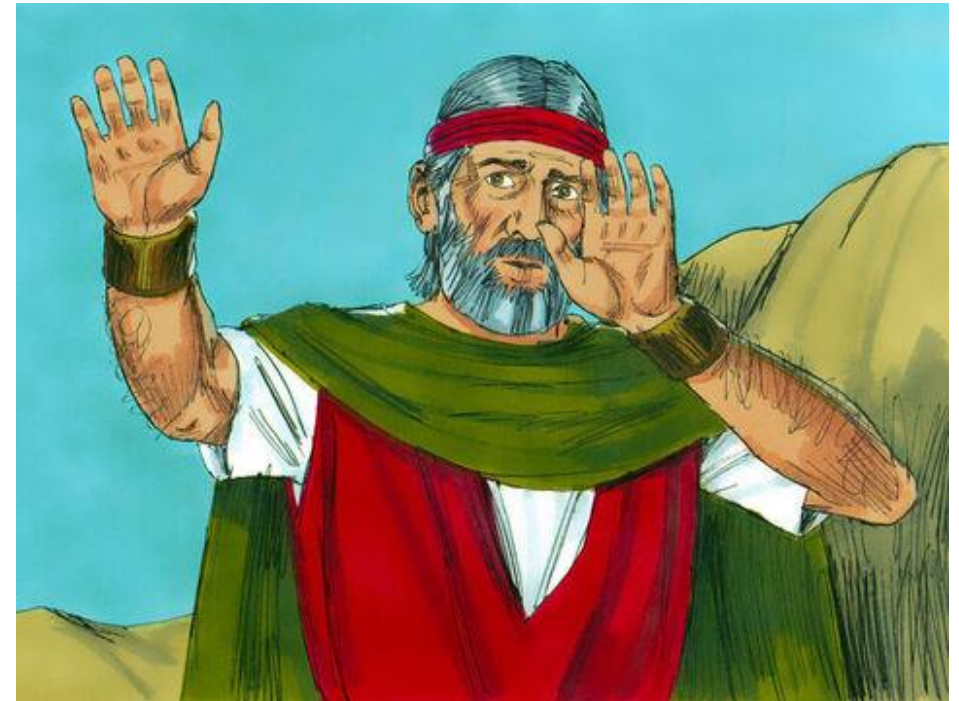
# I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES

- God's answer: "*Who made you, you?*"
- **Takeaway 4**  
What God wants ME to do,  
he will equip me for.



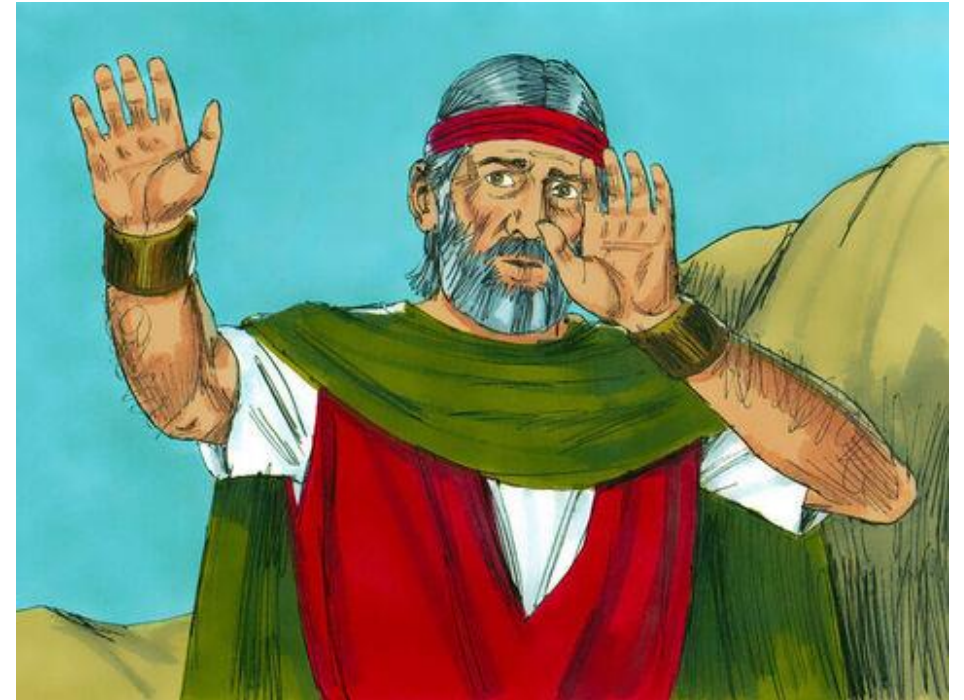
# SEND SOMEONE ELSE

- “*Send by the hand you send*”
- Other possible translations:
  - “*Send me only if there is no-one else to send*”
  - “*I would rather someone else go, but if I have to, then send me*”
- In other words, a reluctant “Yes”



# SEND SOMEONE ELSE

- God's answer: *"What about your brother Aaron?"*
- Why was Aaron in the far side of the desert? Could this have already been planned by God?





# SEND SOMEONE ELSE

- **Takeaway 5**

God will always put the right people alongside me to help me.



# SUMMARY

- You are worthy of the call
- God will be with you
- God will do what you can't do
- God will equip you for what you need to do
- God will put the right people alongside you.