

# THE CALL OF MOSES

**Exodus 3:1-6** – God gets Moses’ attention, he turns aside to look.

**Exodus 3:7-11** – God calls Moses, Moses objects

**Exodus 3:12-15** – God’s answer to Moses objections is to:

1. Reveal Himself to Moses in His sovereignty and power as Creator
2. Promise to be with him and to work through him

**Moses continues to come up with more objections in CHAPTER 4, saying that they won’t believe him based on his word alone and that he is not well spoken enough to do what God has called him to do.**

*God makes provision again for his objections by giving him a staff that Moses can use to perform miracles, and he provides Aaron to speak for him.*

***Though Moses was to be the most influential figure in human history, next to Jesus Himself, yet he began his journey into that calling as a man with almost no faith or courage at all. He began with less faith than probably anyone in this church.***

**At the END OF CHAPTER 4,** Moses and Aaron go before the people of Israel, and the elders, and tell them everything. Everyone believes them and worships God because of it.

**THINGS ARE GOING WELL SO FAR.**

## OBEYING GOD OFTEN MAKES THINGS WORSE – IN THE SHORT-RUN

**Exodus 5** – Moses and Aaron approach Pharaoh and ask him what God told them to ask. “Let my people go worship me in the desert”

**Not only does Pharaoh say no, he disrespects God, AND makes the labor of the Israelites harder with the same quota demands.**

**The elders then try to make things better with Pharaoh by complaining about the new demands, and Pharaoh makes things even harder in order to punish them for complaining and being lazy.**

**READ EXODUS 5:20-21** – They blame Moses and Aaron for all their trouble (this would be the first of many such occasions for Moses) – *Moses is writing this, and you can tell that he still remembers the exact words that one of these people said to him that day.*

I've been here before. I've had this same person snarl at me saying "You made us *stink*." It's not easy to hear. It's not easy in that moment to dodge discouragement when the people you are trying to love and help not only don't appreciate what you are trying to do but can only see the problems you create.

### **KIDS – SPOUSES – FRIENDS – BOSSES – COWORKERS – MINISTRY PARTNERS – ETC**

**Let's Review** – Moses is minding his own business herding sheep. God capitalizes on his ADHD and draws his attention at the burning bush. He then calls Moses to do this impossible task, refusing to allow his many objections to disqualify him.

**When Moses obeys God, everything gets worse for everyone. He has so far done nothing but overpromise and underdeliver. Everyone would have been happier had he continued his day job and kept on walking past that burning bush.**

**READ EXODUS 5:22** – the good news is that despite this opposition and disappointment, Moses responds to God with great composure and faith. *Not really.*

## **GOD'S RESPONSE TO MOSES AND ISRAEL'S DISCOURAGEMENT**

**In Chapter 6, God responds to Moses (and through Moses, responds to the people)**

God simply responds by reminding them of His covenant with Abraham and through Abraham, all of Israel. God has sworn on Himself that He will make Israel "His people" and that they will be blessed and that they will prosper in the land that He has promised.

No matter how much they complain, no matter how discouraged they may become, no matter how unfaithful they may be, God will do what He promised that He would do.

**He then requires Moses and Aaron to do what He originally commanded, despite the rampant discouragement. God will prove Himself in the going, and He will dismantle their discouragement when they see His faithfulness to His own Word.**

***YOU DO NOT GET RID OF DISCOURAGEMENT BY TELLING YOURSELF TO NOT BE DISCOURAGED. YOU GET RID OF DISCOURAGEMENT BY OBEYING GOD IN THE THING HE HAS CALLED YOU TO DO. AND WHEN YOU SEE HIS FAITHFULNESS IN ACTION, AS YOU GO, YOUR DISCOURAGEMENT WILL BE TURNED TO JOY.***

## **CONCLUSION**

In CHAPTER 6:9 it says that the people did not listen to Moses because they were discouraged. They had so fully embraced their discouragement that they could not longer hear God speak to them.

**Just like when they accused Moses and Aaron of making things worse for them, they now accuse God in their hearts of not being faithful.**

This is the lie underneath discouragement. This is the battle you must fight. *In the middle of your discouragement, will you choose to follow the call that God gave you or will you decide that He is not faithful and ignore His voice.*

**This is where I would like to end this morning.**