

**Remnant Life Church**

August 8, 2023

**The Holy Spirit**

Pt 8

**The Gift of Serving (2)**

Exodus 3:7-15; 4:1-17

Serving in the Bible is not a suggestion, it is a command (Gal 5:13)

- It is also a clear indication of the heart of an individual
- It is how we demonstrate the presence of God in our lives
  - Our changed nature from selfish to selfless
  - Our understanding of what it means to love one another unconditionally

But serving is not about finding time in our schedule to give a little bit of time

- It is a condition of the heart
- It is recognizing that we have a responsibility to others as a forgiven child of God

The struggle to make serving a priority is two-fold

- First, we live in a culture of consumerism
- Second, the pace of life is demanding every free moment be filled with an activity 7 days a week, 53 weeks a year
- And each event can easily become an excuse as to why we do not serve, do not do for the church in the same way that we do for other things we are involved in

Is there an example in the Bible of someone who made excuses so as not to do what God said needed to be done?

- Glad you asked that question!
- In fact there is and it is someone you never think tried to sidestep God

READ – Exodus 3: 7-15; 4:1-17

Moses life is divided into 3 equal segments of time

- Part I – His birth through the first 40 years
  - Born around mid-1300's BCE
  - Born to Hebrew parents but raised in the court of Pharaoh
- Part II – Exile and the second 40 years
- Part III – Exodus to the Promised Land and the third 40 years

The significance of 40:

- Occurs in the scripture 24 times
- The most of any number except one other – (#3)
- Meaning – a time of preparation (consecration) and/or a period of trial
- Includes:
  - days of the flood
  - number of days Moses was on the mountain receiving the law
  - number of years the Israelites wandered in the desert
  - number of days old a male child before his dedication to God in the temple
  - years that Saul, David, and Solomon each ruled as King
  - number of days Jesus fasted before the temptation
  - number of days Jesus was with His disciples following His resurrection before the ascension

## Moses' 4 Excuses/God's 4 Responses:

1. But I'm a nobody! (3:11)
  - a. In other words, Why Me?
  - b. Why would Moses feel this way about himself?
    - i. He was recalling his past
    - ii. Stephen retells the story in Acts 7:23-28
  - c. Moses had tried to be a deliverer once before and he was rejected
    - i. When God calls you to serve Him Satan will always remind you of your past failures
  - d. Many make excuses today based on past attempts that ended poorly or were unhappy experiences
    - i. There is no perfect setting or scenario
    - ii. Every time we serve we run the risk of a less than perfect experience
      1. But perfection is not the goal
      2. Serving God by serving His people is
  - e. **God's Response:**
    - i. I will be with you (3:12)
      1. 5 words that changes everything about our lives
      2. At the moment we receive Him into our lives everything changes because He is with us
      3. When He is with us nothing is impossible
        - a. David and Goliath
        - b. Joshua at Jericho
        - c. Daniel in the lion's den
        - d. Three Hebrews in the furnace

e. Every man and woman that Jesus touched with a miracle

2. But I don't know who you are! (3:13)

a. Uncertainty often enables wrong thinking to come into your mind

i. This is not about caution or being wisely careful

ii. It is about doubt that should not be present when we claim to have faith

b. Doubt is one of the enemy's biggest guns

i. The first one he ever used

1. Did God really say you must not eat from any tree in the garden? (Gen 3:1)

ii. Used even used it against Jesus twice

1. If you are the Son of God (Matt 4:2, 6)

c. Does doubt prevent you from being active in the things of God

i. Doubting ourselves is doubting what God's word says about us

ii. Psalms 139:4 - I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

iii. Never allow doubt to cloud the purpose and strength of who you are because of Jesus Christ

d. **God's Response:**

i. Just tell them what you know about me (3:14-15)

ii. Remind them of who I am

1. The people knew what God was but they had forgotten who He was – that is our same problem today!
  2. They cried out and prayed for deliverance because God had heard them (3:7)
  3. Would they recognize God’s deliverance if they saw it?
  4. Certainly they struggled in the desert to stay faithful to God
- e. Don’t get caught up in trying to figure everything out
- i. When you truly trust God your faith is a simple, powerful one
  - ii. God has a plan!
    1. He gave Moses the strategy of what to do
    2. 3:15-22 – God tells Moses how it will happen
3. But people will think I am lying (4:1)
- a. People care way too much about what others will think
    - i. No matter what you do you will never be able to control or guarantee what someone else will think
    - ii. Yet we think we can by what we say or do –
    - iii. What if?!?!
  - b. “What ifs” are the killers of our future victories
    - i. You have the capability to “what if” anything to death
    - ii. Whatever you can imagine, you can “what if”
    - iii. “What ifs” are the bullets in the gun of excuses

### c. God's Response

- i. (I'm paraphrasing here) – “Do you know who you're talking to?!?”
  1. When we begin to believe, REALLY believe in who God is my entire outlook will change regardless of the situation
  2. If RLC had a church basketball team
    - a. If I were to see a guy, over 7 feet tall walk in – I would be very excited about what he might be able to add to the team
    - b. I see a tall guy walk in and it's Joel Embid – now my whole attitude about the next game has just changed
- ii. God showed Moses His power
  1. Power over the things of the earth (4:2-5)
    - a. God still tested Moses
    - b. Pick up the snake by the tail (not how you handle a snake)
    - c. Moses actually passed this one (encouraged)
  2. Power over man (4:6-7)
  3. Power over the things man worships (4:8-9)
    - a. Nile river was a God to the Egyptians (Hap-PIE)
    - b. God would be shown to be more powerful than their false gods
- d. Knowing and believing who is with us removes all fear

4. I don't speak well (4:10)
- a. In spite of all that God had shown him Moses still thought it was up to him
    - i. This would be a pattern that would haunt the Israelites (and even Moses) for the next 40 years
  - b. This excuse might have been the lamest of them all (you can see that he's running out of them)
    - i. Acts 7:22 – Stephen said Moses was a man powerful in speech and action
    - ii. If we step back and honestly look at them aren't all of our excuses weak?
  - c. **God's Response (4:11-12)**
    - i. When God presents us with opportunities in our lives He will provide the way
    - ii. His question to Moses was, "Who is your source?"
      1. Not just in that time but in everything
      2. He is our inexhaustible source of all things including our abilities in the acts of serving others
      3. Job 38-41
- Even after all that God said to Moses he still tried to get out of it (4:13)
  - Then we read a frightening verse, The Lord's anger burned against Moses
  - If we continue to fly in the face of God with our excuses, our pride, our selfishness He just may remove His hand from our lives and give us exactly what we ask for

- There are two places that we don't ever want to be
  - Outside from under the protective hand of God
  - Outside of His will and in the center of our own

Serving God and others is not about us

- It is about obeying God
- It is about demonstrating God's love
- It is about the blessing we receive when we give to other people

Don't miss all that God has for you because of excuses