

## Remnant Life Church

August 13, 2023

### The Holy Spirit

Pt 9

### The Gift of Serving (3)

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

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

But serving is not about finding an opening in your 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, 52 weeks a year
- And each event can easily become an excuse as to why we do not serve

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

Moses' 4 Excuses/God's 4 Responses:

(Review first 2)

1. But I'm a nobody! (**3:11**)
  - a. In other words, Why Me?
    - i. When God calls you to serve Him Satan will always remind you of your past failures
  - b. 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
  - c. **God's Response:**
    - i. I will be with you (**3:12**)
      1. 5 words that changes everything about our lives
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
  - c. 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
      - a. For many that is our same problem today!
    - 2. Now they had 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 for Moses and He has a plan for you today!
    - 1. He gave Moses the strategy of what to do not only there on the mountain but throughout the entire time he led them through the desert

First excuse, "But I'm a nobody"

Second excuse, "I don't know who you are"

- 3. But people will think I am lying (**4:1**)
  - a. People today 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, say or feel
    - ii. Yet we believe we can alter that by our actions
    - iii. These are the lethal "What ifs?!"
  - 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 that is good or positive, you can "what if" to the negative
    - 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 you begin to believe, REALLY believe in who God is your entire outlook will change regardless of the situation
      - 2. Let's say that RLC had a church basketball team
        - a. If I were to see a guy, over 7 feet tall walk in one Sunday – I would be very excited about what he might be able to add to the team for our next game



- Outside from under the protective hand of God
- Outside of His will and in the center of your own

Serving God and others is not about us

- It is about obeying God
- It is about demonstrating God's love
- It is about fulfilling the command we are given to serve one another in love

One other aspect of this that we did not touch on but is no less true

- To serve and bless others means we also are blessed
- There has never been a time when I had the opportunity to serve someone else that I was not blessed as well
- Many times, the blessing I received was, I thought, greater than what I had done
  - But that is the heart and love of God
  - We cannot outgive Him

However, we don't ever do for others expecting a return

- But if you give of yourself selflessly to others God will bless you as well

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

The opportunity to serve others is truly a privilege and one that will put you right in the middle of what God wants for His children – to give of themselves, just as He gave for us.