

Service without excuses

¹ One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. ³ "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it." ⁴ When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am!" Moses replied.

EXODUS 3:1-4 NLT

⁹ Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. ¹⁰ Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

EXODUS 3:9-10 NLT

I leave my excuses behind when I understand that:

1. My identity is transformed by God's presence

¹¹ But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹² God answered, "I will be with you."

EXODUS 3:11-12 NLT

³ Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. ⁴ So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, ⁵ and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

JOHN 13:3-5 NLT

I leave my excuses behind when I understand that:

2. The measure of my faith in God is the measure of my trust in His calling

¹³ But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?" ¹⁴ God replied to Moses, "I am who I am. Say this to the people of Israel: I am has sent me to you."

EXODUS 3:13-14 NLT

O Sovereign Lord! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!

JEREMIAH 32:17 NLT

I leave my excuses behind when I understand that:

3. My obedience must be a response to God's voice, not to the voices of others

But Moses protested again, "What if they won't believe me or listen to me? What if they say, 'The Lord never appeared to you'?"

EXODUS 4:1 NLT

² Then the Lord asked him, "What is that in your hand?" "A shepherd's staff," Moses replied. ³ "Throw it down on the ground," the Lord told him. So Moses threw down the staff, and it turned into a snake! Moses jumped back. ⁴ Then the Lord told him, "Reach out and grab its tail." So Moses reached out and grabbed it, and it turned back into a shepherd's staff in his hand.

EXODUS 4:2-4 NLT

¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, "Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? ²⁰ We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard."

ACTS 4:19-20 NLT

I leave my excuses behind when I understand that:

4. My weaknesses are a platform for giving credit to God

¹⁰ But Moses pleaded with the Lord, "O Lord, I'm not very good with words. I never have been, and I'm not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled." ¹¹ Then the Lord asked Moses, "Who makes a person's mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the Lord?"

EXODUS 4:10-11 NLT

Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9 NLT

I leave my excuses behind when I understand that:

5. Taking action and serving complete my faith.

¹³ But Moses again pleaded, "Lord, please! Send anyone else." ¹⁴ Then the Lord became angry with Moses. "All right," he said. "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he speaks well. And look! He is on his way to meet you now. He will be delighted to see you."

EXODUS 4:13-14 NLT

You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete.

JAMES 2:22 NLT