

Week 2 Sermon Outline

Equipped for the Call

Exodus 3:1-4:17

Intro

- One of the greatest basketball players ever was cut from his high school's varsity team because of his height (5'10") and perceived lack of readiness for varsity-level play at that time. Michael Jordan must have felt embarrassed and inadequate, but he didn't give up.
- When God calls us, we can't let our inadequacies hold us back because God equips his people.
- One of the most important moments in history (the Exodus) began with a reluctant leader.

Explanation

- God calls Moses (Exodus 3:1-10)
 - God seeks Moses after he has fled Egypt (vv. 1-6, see also Ex 2:11-25)
 - Moses' initial fear is good: righteous awe before God (v. 6)
 - God commissions Moses to deliver Israel—to serve God's people on His behalf (vv. 7-10)
- God promises to equip Moses (Exodus 3:11-22)
 - Concern 1: I'm not good enough (3:11-12)
 - God's response: I'll be with you.
 - Concern 2: What will I say? (3:13-22)
 - God's response: Tell them I sent you and that I have the victory.
 - Concern 3: What if they doubt me? (4:1-9)
 - God's response: Proof is my job.
 - Concern 4: What about my inadequacies? (4:10-12)
 - God's response: I created you purposefully.
 - Concern 5: Please don't make me! (4:13-17)
 - God's response: In spite of God's anger, "I'll provide a coworker."

Application

- Your story will be different from Moses, but you can probably identify with his concerns.
- When we sense God's calling, we too are tempted to focus on ourselves. God constantly redirects Moses' attention to His plan and power, and we must have the same focal point.
- Human inadequacy is no problem for God. Abraham (old), David (young), Peter (unschooled and ordinary), and Paul (thorn in the flesh) all had significant strikes against them, but God was sufficient (2 Cor 12).
- If God is calling you, don't let "you" get in the way.

Prayer Prompts

- Read Jeremiah 1 and ask God to remind those he will call that he is with them no matter how inadequate they may feel.
- Read Acts 4:1-31 and pray that the Holy Spirit would work powerfully through prayer and God's Word to enable ordinary people to obey when he calls them.
- Read 1 Corinthians 12 and pray that the same Spirit would equip different kinds of people to contribute their unique gifts in your church.
- Pray for training opportunities that will benefit your church.
- Pray for mentors to arise who can invest in those God will call.

Reflection Questions

- Why do you think God appeared to Moses in such a dramatic way? (Moses' unique, dramatic calling indicates that he may have needed extra convincing from the beginning)
- What's the difference between Moses' fear in 3:6 and his concerns in the rest of the story? How do we identify each type of fear in our own lives?
- Which of Moses' concerns do you most identify with? How would shifting your attention away from yourself and onto God's power and direction impact your perspective on this issue?
- When have you experienced God in the past working through you in spite of your insecurities? Why do you think God works through us when we're weak?
- If God is calling you, how can others pray for you as you wrestle with these concerns?

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