
Life of Moses: Seeing Him Who Is Invisible
 “Layers of Resistance and God’s Gracious Provision”
 Exodus 4:1-17

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“Consider the mighty ways in which God used a dead stick of wood. ‘God so used a stick of wood’ can be a banner cry for each of us. Though we are limited and weak in talent, physical energy and psychological strength, we are not less than a stick of wood. But as the rod of Moses had to become the rod of God, so that which is me must become the me of God. The Scripture emphasizes that much can come from little if the little is truly consecrated to God.”

Francis Schaeffer, “No Little People, No Little Places”

“Take these hands, Teach them what to carry, Take these hands, Don't make a fist; Take this mouth, So quick to criticize, Take this mouth, Give it a kiss. Yahweh, Yahweh, Always pain before a child is born; Yahweh, Yahweh, Still I'm waiting for the dawn.”

U2, “Yahweh”

“For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong...”

1 Corinthians 1:26-27

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- What from the Scripture passage or the sermon made an impression upon you? Do you have unanswered questions about the passage?
- What is God showing you about Himself and yourself in this passage?
- Moses speaks to God three times in this passage (vv. 1, 10, 13), revealing the three “levels” of his resistance.
 - What are the “levels” of his resistance? How does Moses feel about the task at hand? How does he feel about his own ability? What does this reveal about his heart?
 - When God invites you to participate in his kingdom work, do you feel these “levels” of resistance? If so, how?
- God graciously provides for Moses at all three “levels” of his resistance.
 - What three signs does God give Moses in vv. 2-9? How are these signs perfectly tailored to convince the people of Israel that God is greater than the false gods of Egypt?
 - What does God reveal about himself in these signs?
- In v. 10, Moses has concerns about his own ability to do what God has called him to do.
 - How does God reassure and provide for Moses at this level of his resistance?
 - What does God reveal about himself in vv. 11-12?
- Moses finally reveals his heart in v. 13.
 - Why doesn’t Moses want to do what God has called him to do?
 - What do we learn about God’s patience in vv. 14-17?
 - How does God graciously provide for Moses at this deepest level of his resistance?
- One commentator says that “Moses’ concerns provide a vehicle for God to reveal himself” in this passage.
 - Reflect on some ways that you might be resistant to God’s invitation to participate in his kingdom work. Have you seen God graciously provide at the places where you were resistant?
- Reflect on the significance of Moses’ staff. How does God use ordinary things to do the extraordinary?