

Biblical Stewardship, part 4 – You!  
Exodus 4:1-5

I. Introduction

A. Today marks the fourth and final installment in our series on Stewardship.

B. After talking about the stewardship of vision, time, and resources we turn our attention today to the stewardship of you.

- 1) God would like nothing more than for each of us to willingly offer ourselves to His service.
- 2) Stewardship then is about complete dedication of ourselves to the purposes of God.
  - a) God wants to be King over every aspect of who we are.
  - b) God wants us to submit every resource, thought, and activity to His sovereignty.

C. Let's look at Exodus chapter 4 together.

- 1) Notice that God asks a very simple question, "What is in your hand?"
  - a) After 40 years in the desert watching over sheep, Moses has a dramatic and life-changing encounter with God.
  - b) He is given the mission of leading God's people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land.
- 2) It's not a task Moses wants and instantly begins to express doubts about this ability to pull off this task.
  - a) He struggled with feelings of inadequacy.
    - i. "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" – Exodus 3:11.
    - ii. Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?" – Exodus 4:1.
  - b) He didn't believe he had the skills to pull it off.
    - i. "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." – Exodus 4:10.
    - ii. But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it." – Exodus 4:13.

D. Certainly none of us has ever been faced with feelings of inadequacy when asked to work for God (in the church).

- 1) We find a way to pass the buck; usually by saying, "It's not my gift."
- 2) In effect we say like Moses, "Here I am, Lord. Send Aaron."

E. The simple question that God asks Moses in this story is an important one.

- 1) God asks, "What is that in your hand?"
- 2) That simple question reveals to us what God believes about your ability to be the faithful steward of you.

II. First, it shows us the importance of proximity.

A. God has gifted us for the task before us.

- 1) God knows us better than we know ourselves.
- 2) God has known us since before we were even born.
- 3) And God gifted us in advance for the purpose of our lifetime.

B. When God called Moses, God began by using whatever Moses had close at hand – his rod.

- 1) When God calls you, God begins by using whatever is close at hand.
  - 2) Are you a musician? God will begin there. Are you an athlete? God will begin there.
- C. God begins a work in our lives using the things in closest proximity to us.
- 1) Talents –
  - 2) Gifts –
  - 3) Experiences –
- III. Second, it shows us the importance of insignificance.
- A. God uses ordinary things and ordinary people for extraordinary purposes.
- 1) Shepherd boys, carpenters, farmers, fishermen, and businesswomen.
  - 2) Water, mud, spit, wine, coins, fish, fig trees and bread.
- B. God uses the insignificant to accomplish the significant.
- 1) 1 Corinthians 1:27 – “But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise.”
  - 2) That’s the way God *chooses* to work. It’s God’s M.O!
- IV. Finally, it shows us the importance of choice.
- A. After God’s demonstrations of power, Moses had to pick up the snake *before* it became a rod again.
- 1) {I hate snakes.}
  - 2) Moses had to make a choice to trust God and allow God to work.
- B. We have a choice to make also.
- 1) We can choose to walk away, not answer the call, step back from God’s plan and follow our own wisdom.
  - 2) Or we can choose to pick up the snake, say “Yes, Lord,” and follow Jesus.
  - 3) It was Moses’ choice.
    - a) And it’s our choice.
    - b) It’s not a choice God will make for us.
- V. If you say “Yes” to God calling, if you are willing to use “what is in your hand,” you will need three things. And God will give them to you just as he gave them to Moses.
- A. God will give you boldness.
- 1) <sup>1</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. <sup>2</sup>You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country. <sup>3</sup>But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and though I multiply my miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt, <sup>4</sup>he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites. <sup>5</sup>And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it.” <sup>6</sup>Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD commanded them. <sup>7</sup>Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh. – Exodus 7:1-7.
  - 2) The Man who trembled before the burning bush and found every excuse not to say YES to God now walks with boldness into the throne room of Pharaoh.
  - 3) How does that happen?
    - a) By the power of God through the Holy Spirit.
    - b) God gifts those who answer the call to service in the Kingdom of God with boldness.
- B. God will give you purpose.
- 1) Moses knew exactly what the Lord required of him. How?

- a) It was revealed to him in his encounter with God.
    - b) God and Moses were together and God laid out the plan.
  - 2) God will do the same for you.
    - a) It's not God's desire for you to be in the dark. God's isn't playing a trick or some cruel game.
    - b) God wants you to know.
  - 3) And God will tell you your purpose.
    - a) When you spend time in God's presence, you will begin to understand your purpose.
    - b) And that purpose will guide you throughout your walk as a disciple.
- C. God will give you humility.
  - 1) Only a humble person can submit their own will to the will of God.
    - a) Moses was a proud man, living in Pharaoh's palace.
      - i. But God humbled him
      - ii. And in that humility Moses became powerful for God.
    - b) God will humble our proud spirits too and then God will lift us up and use us in mighty ways for the glory of the Kingdom.
  - 2) God will give you humility so that you don't get lost and detour from your purpose.
    - a) A humble person can say it and mean it, "It's not about me."
    - b) A humble person can better remain quietly faithful, because they don't allow themselves to get in the way of the great things of God.

VI. Stewardship is all about you.

- A. Are you ready ... to offer to God your time, your resources, every part of your life because you have vision for what God wants to do?
- B. Are you ready ... to allow God to use what is nearby, what may seem insignificant, what only you can give?
- C. Are you ready to be filled with boldness, to understand your purpose, and to be made powerful in humility ... all for the sake of the Gospel.
- D. If you are, prepare to hear these words, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness." – Matthew 25:21.