

Written Copy: "The Good News of the God Who Sends a Deliverer"

Midweek Lent #2

Wednesday, March 4th, 2026

Text: Exodus 4:10-12

¹⁰ But Moses said to the LORD, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." ¹¹ Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?" ¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."

Exegetical Statement

Despite the supernatural appearance of the LORD to him in the burning bush, Moses remains a very reluctant servant of God to deliver His people. He worries that they will not believe he was called by the LORD. So, the LORD responds with three miraculous signs Moses is to do before the Israelites: his staff becoming a real snake and then back again, his hand becoming leprous and then back to normal, and water from the Nile turning to blood. Moses is to give the testimony of God's words to him and these signs. Then Moses complains to God that he is not a public speaker, being deficient in speech and pronunciation, and therefore unable to do the job. The LORD responds that as the God who created the ability to speak for each human being, as well as the other senses of hearing and seeing, He will most certainly empower Moses. But Moses pleads that the LORD send someone else. In His anger the LORD is sending Aaron, Moses' brother. The LORD will instruct both of them in His plan to deliver His people out of slavery, the LORD instructing Moses who will tell Aaron, as one standing in the place of God, what to say to the people. Moses then departs from Midian with his family, with Jethro, his father-in-law's blessing, and with the LORD's assurance that all who sought to kill him have themselves died off, and he returns to Egypt to serve the LORD.

Focus Statement:

Where Moses was reluctant and lacking Jesus was perfectly fitted to be the Deliverer of the entire human race. He is the God who did far greater miracles than Moses, especially suffering, dying, and rising to forgive our sin and break our bondage to sin, death, and the devil. He wasn't just empowered by God through the Spirit; He is God who out of the greatest love chose to give His life to free all mankind. He shares with His Church the message that sets free all who hear and believe and empowers us to serve as His witness and be His tools.

Function Statement:

Why it's important to know:

Despite being called by the LORD and blessed with authority to do miracles, Moses is reluctant to serve as the LORD's deliverer of His people. We too are reluctant to speak the Words of Christ that free all from slavery to sin.

What the hearer should do as a result:

The LORD moved reluctant Moses to be His servant to deliver His people. The LORD, through the means of grace, is at work to move us in our reluctance to share His message that breaks the slavery to sin of all who believe.

Subject Sentence: The God Who sent His Son and Us to Deliver others

Introduction: The Reluctance of Children

Remember what it was like when you were trying to get your kids to do the chores around the house? Talk about the gift of creativity or the ability to debate! Do any of these excuses sound familiar from your past? ***“My room is clean; I just did it. You don’t need to go and check.”*** ***“I just took the garbage out yesterday. How much garbage do we have in this house?”*** ***“It’s his/her turn! I always have to do that! It’s not fair!”*** ***“I’ll do it later, I promise.”*** ***“I don’t feel good, I’m sick to my stomach”*** (That one can backfire if a doctor visit or nasty tasting medicine may be involved), ***“None of my friends do chores!”*** ***“I don’t know how to sweep, vacuum, load and unload the dishwasher, shovel the driveway...”*** Do these excuses sound familiar?

The Reluctance of Moses

Moses was 80 years old when the LORD called him to be His servant in delivering His people from slavery in Egypt. But with the excuses Moses gave, you would think he was a pre-teen trying to avoid doing the dishes.

The LORD had come to him in a supernatural way to call him into service. The LORD had identified Himself as the God who came to the Patriarchs, made and kept promises to them, provided for them and sustained them, and promised Abraham that even though his descendants would become slaves in Egypt, He would rescue them. Now is the time for that rescue, and the LORD is the God who is mighty enough to do it. He has picked Moses to be His servant through whom He will work.

How does Moses respond? “I don’t wanna!” And to be fair, Moses has some reason why he is unsure he’s the guy. After all, he ran away when as an Israelite living in Pharaoh’s palace, one put there by the supernatural working of the LORD, he could’ve been in a position to help his people. He ran and hid for 40 years. He didn’t expect anyone, be they Israelite or Egyptian, to be too happy to see him. And who would believe his story about the LORD appearing to him, of all people, in a burning bush.

The LORD knows this and graciously provides and empowers Moses to do three miraculous signs that will attest that the LORD did appear to him, chose him to be the leader who will deliver the LORD’s people, and will empower him to be successful. The first is Moses staff, when he throws it on the ground, it turns into a snake. This wasn’t a magician’s trick where it just looked like a snake; it really became a snake, so much so that Moses backs away for safety. But at the LORD’s command, when Moses grabs hold of the tail of this snake, it turns back into his staff as he is holding it in his hand.

The second involves Moses putting his hand inside his cloak and bringing it out only to find leprosy has infected his skin. But at the LORD's command, when Moses returns his hand inside his cloak and brings it out again, the skin of his hand has returned to normal.

And if those didn't do the trick to convince the Israelites that Moses' testimony was true, Moses was to take some water from the Nile and pour it out on the dry ground. The water would turn to blood.

These signs were not just to convince Israel, but to convince and strengthen the faith and resolve of Moses himself to go and do as God was commanding him. Can you imagine not just seeing someone else do these miracles, but to be up front and personal, seeing them done as God works through your hand as you follow the instructions of the LORD? Shouldn't they be enough to convince the doubting heart?

But not Moses. He still has an excuse up his sleeve. He whines to the LORD that he is not a capable public speaker. He is not eloquent with his use of the language. And he makes it sound as if he has some speech impediment that makes him slow to speak and not clear in his vocalization. Could this be true or just an excuse? It does seem from later descriptions in the book of Numbers that Moses was not an extrovert, not an "A" personality. But should any of these things really matter? Who is it that is calling Moses into service? The One who formed and created Moses in his mother's womb to be who the LORD needed him to be. This is the God who gives the gift of articulation. This the LORD God who empowers His servants to be successful. Moses success will not rest on what Moses himself brings to the table, but how the LORD God will work through him despite all his deficiencies.

Exodus 4:13-15 ¹³ But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." ¹⁴ Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. ¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do.

Finally, Moses drops the excuses and gets to the heart of the matter. "***Not me, LORD! Send Someone else!***" And how does the LORD respond? This makes Him angry! Wow! So, how does the LORD react to Moses in anger? Well, He doesn't smite Moses to the ground or afflict him in any way. Instead, He calls and provides Aaron to be the public mouthpiece, repeating what the LORD first tells Moses, who relays it to Aaron. This is a gracious and loving gesture on the LORD's part for reluctant Moses. How is it that the LORD can be angry, and yet respond in this way? Our God is one who hates our sin but still loves the sinner.

Jesus as the Perfect Deliverer

Moses is an example that illustrates and points us to a greater Deliverer, whose name is Jesus. In all the ways that Moses was weak, ill-equipped, and reluctant, Jesus was well-equipped, strong, willing, and the One perfectly suited to be a far greater deliverer than Moses.

Like Moses there was a king who, at Jesus' birth, sought to kill Him. But by the miraculous working of the LORD, He was spared. Like Moses, Jesus was not welcomed by those whom He came to deliver. Unlike Moses, those Jesus came to deliver refused to admit they were in need of deliverance, because they refused to admit they were enslaved to sin.

We know people around us who are living the same way, seeing no need to call upon Jesus, worship Him, or read His Word. They think they are free to do what they want when they want to. They don't realize their refusal to listen to the testimony of God's word actually means they have separated themselves from their loving Creating and Sustaining God, whose provision in their daily life they ignore, and instead see themselves as the supplier of all that is needed. They live apart from the LORD now, and for that reason, at death, they will transition into eternal separation in the physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering of eternal damnation.

Lest we only point the finger at others, let's take a look at ourselves. Are we ever guilty of Moses' kind of reluctance to serve our Creator God? Do we ever refuse His call to spend time with Him studying His Word, be in worship with Him, be His messenger to those around us who are headed to eternal damnation? Thanks be to God that while He hates our sin but loves you, the sinner.

Unlike Moses, Jesus Christ is the willing Servant of the Father on your behalf and mine. In His life on earth, He showed Himself to be sent by the Father, empowered by the Father, and further to be God on earth through His teaching and preaching, and His miracles.

Moses, as broken and sinful as he was, through the empowering work of the Holy Spirit; was God's tool to deliver Israel from bondage to slavery. But Moses could never do what Jesus did, he could never deliver anyone from their bondage to sin, eternal separation from God the Father, and the control of Satan. But Jesus could and did.

Only Jesus as 100% God and 100% man could perform the greatest miracle, the greatest act of deliverance. Only He can take the sins of the whole world upon Himself, all the ways we refuse to hear and obey the Heavenly Father, and deliver us from the punishment we so justly deserve. He took them all upon Himself and became your atoning sacrifice to break your bondage to sin, earn for you forgiveness for them all. Only He could change your standing before God now as a disobedient child that deserves His wrath to a beloved child with whom God desires to spend time with. Only He could and did change your eternal destination from suffering forever body, soul, and spirit to the joy of eternal life to come.

All this He did as your perfect Deliverer not out of reluctant obligation, but out of willing love for you so that you would not be lost forever. He did this because He is the God who hates your sin, but loves and forgives you, the sinner.

Our Call to Serve Him by Sharing His Message

Moses and Aaron together would serve the LORD in His plan to deliver His people as the LORD gave His word to Moses, who shared it with Aaron, who was to speak to the people. The LORD has called you and I to share a message of deliverance from slavery to sin too. He gave that message to Moses, to the Gospel Writers, to Paul, and the other authors of God's Word. His Spirit puts that message in our hearts and minds whenever we gather to hear it preached, read, and sung. It's the Gospel Message that serves to deliver you and me. It is God's power of salvation and deliverance for any and all who will believe.

When you feel that call put upon you to share His salvation message with reluctant people, you like me may be able to come up with all kinds of excuses, just like Moses, how we are the wrong person for the job. But it is the LORD who formed you and gave you your gifts and talents, who has placed you in the life situations you encounter every day, who led you through all things you have encountered in your life and did so by His leading, guiding, and supplying what you needed. He is the One who calls us into ministry for Him.

But most important He has given you the Gospel Message that is the power of deliverance in the lives of any and all you may have opportunity to share it with. And what about when you and I act like reluctant servants as Moses was? That very Gospel Message reminds us we have a God who hates sin but loves the sinner. We have a Savior and Deliverer who died and rose for you despite all the ways He knew you would sin. And through the repentant faith given and kept alive by His Word He forgives you, restores you, and sends you, just like He did with Moses.

Conclusion

Kids will continue to find excuses when it's time to help with the chores. You and I will continue at times to ignore God's will and command to live our life in obedience to His will. We will continue to balk at sharing the Gospel Message of deliverance with others. But the Good News, the Greatest News is we have a Deliverer named Jesus Christ who delivers us from sin, and its consequences now and eternally. We have a Deliverer who continues to call us to Him in faith and works through our reluctant witness to share that message of deliverance with others. We have a Deliverer who hates our sin but loves you, the sinner. May He continue His work in you as the One who comes to save and deliver you every day of your life. Amen.