

Remnant Life Church

Servanthood

Week 3

Exodus 3:10-15; 4:1-5,10-12; 6:12,30

“Serving Without Excuse”

As in all things of the life of a Christian, your life is one of choices

- Opportunities are presented in many ways to serve others
- It might be an individual
- It might be an event impacting many
- In all those you choose whether to give of yourself or not

When someone chooses not to serve, there are always reasons, excuses, as to why not

- Most often:
 - Too busy
 - Tired
 - Inconvenient
 - I just don't feel like it
- Each of those reasons is motivated by one thing – self
- How do you combat the selfishness that prevents you from giving of yourself?

Moses

- Raised in the courts of Pharaoh; fled to the land of the Midianites; called of God to lead the people
- Moses tried to talk God out of sending him back to Egypt
- Like us, Moses had what he thought were excellent reasons why he did not want to serve God

READ: Exodus 3:10-15; 4:1-5; 6:12,30

Moses gave five excuses while still in the presence of God in the burning bush:

1. Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt? (Ex 3:11)
 - a. I am not qualified; I can't do this
 - i. Our culture places great importance in training and education even over skill and desire
 - ii. True in churches; degrees mean more than anointing
 - b. God's reply – I will be with you, and I will give you a sign (Ex 3:12)
 - i. You will be anointed
 - ii. Nothing was going to be more important to Moses than God being with him
 - c. Helping others and giving of yourself is an outpouring of God's presence in your heart
2. What if they ask me your name? (Ex 3:13)
 - a. If it's not me, then it's you

- i. Again, the world values visible, outward authority
 - ii. Experience, power, money, education...
 - iii. Moses says, if you're still going to send me, then what are your credentials?
 - b. God's reply – Tell them *I AM who I AM*; the God of your forefathers (Ex 3:14-15)
 - c. (Yahweh) '*I am who I am*' from a Hebrew phrase indicating existence as well as action
 - d. God is present, and He is active
3. What if they don't believe me or said You didn't speak to me? (Ex 4:1)
 - a. What will they think of me?
 - i. I don't want to look foolish
 - ii. Pride must be protected
 - b. God's reply – I will empower you to perform miracles as proof (Ex 4:5-7)
 - i. Staff becomes a snake
 - ii. Hand becomes leprous
 - iii. Slight of hand compared to the awesome power of God
 - c. God's power is much greater than any obstacle we may think we have
 - i. But you must go to Him first
 - ii. You must have the faith to believe
4. I am not eloquent, slow of speech, and you've never asked anything like this from me before (Ex 4:10)
 - a. You did not adequately prepare me for this
 - i. A new tactic - shifting of blame
 - ii. Not my fault!
 - b. God's reply – who do you think you are talking to? I made you! (Ex 4:11-12)
 - c. Not only is He the creator, but you are never a finished creation – You are and should be in a continual state of change
 - i. That means you are growing, learning, changing because of His love and power in your life
 - ii. Every opportunity to serve is a chance to grow and put into practice what you have learned
5. You don't understand, I stutter (Ex 6:12,30)
 - a. You still don't get it (back to #1 – I can't do this)
 - b. God's reply – I will send your brother to speak the prophetic words. But you will still speak what I tell you (Ex 7:1-2)
 - c. While God will make a way, what He asks of you will be done
 - d. Nothing prevents the will of God from being accomplished

God had a plan

- It began in the Garden
- It came to the time when a nation of God's people was ready to be born
- They were a people, because of God's plan, that would witness the coming of the Savior

- God needed Moses to get approximately 2.4 million people from Egypt to Canaan
- Moses' 5 excuses were not going to keep that from happening

Moses did what God wanted him to do because, despite his earlier excuses, his heart was right

As we have already seen, the choices you make begin with what is in your heart, not in your head.

- The heart of a Christian must be fully surrendered to God
 - Not just the areas that might seem obvious – anger, greed, jealousy, envy, etc
 - But the will and the spirit of self that hesitates or refuses to put others first

Our excuses may sound different, but they all say the same thing:

- What I want, what I am doing, my life is more important
- Too harsh, or too true?
- Refusing to make excuses is an important part of developing a heart to serve.

This morning, renew your commitment to live for God and then let that be seen in how you serve others - without excuses.