

"Excuses For Not Serving God"

Text: Exodus 4:10-16

Intro:

- Many a Christian today is coming up with one excuse after another for not serving God.
- I am here to tell you that according to the Word of God there is **NO!** excuse for not serving God.
- This morning we are going to examine some of the great men of God who before they began to serve God came up with an excuse or reason not to.
- We will see that God in each one of these individual cases did not let them off the hook.
- In fact, we will see how God in each case answered each man with the reason why they could serve Him.
- Let's begin with Moses.

I. Moses

- **Exodus 4:10** - "And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I [am] not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I [am] slow of speech, and of a slow tongue."
 - In essence what Moses is saying to God is –
 - I can't talk
 - I'm clutts when it comes to speaking

- I'm slow of speech
 - I get tongue tied.
 - I'm not a good public speaker
 - I flunk public speaking in college.
 - I get nervous speaking in front of people and start stuttering.
 - I do not speak well – my grammar is terrible.
- **Notice the Lord's response in Exodus 4:11-12 – "11: And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? 12: Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say."**
- The Lord asks Moses who has made your mouth in the first place.
 - Of course, the answer is God.
 - Further, God tells "Moses since I am the one that made your mouth, I will teach you what to what to say and how to say it and when to say it."
 - "Therefore, Moses you cannot use the excuse that because I am a poor speaker then you cannot use my mouth for you"
- Today, you hear many a Christian say –
- "I can't witness for the Lord"
 - "I get tongue tied"

- “I get nervous when speaking to people”
- “I don’t know what to say”
- What does God say about all of this?
 - As Christians, each one of us has the Holy Ghost dwelling permanently inside us.
 - Jesus told us this about the Holy Ghost in **John 14:26** – “But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”
- Christian you are without excuse for not witnessing for the Lord!
 - Jesus said the Holy Ghost would bring all things to your remembrance, “**whatsoever I have said unto you**”.
- **See what Jesus told His disciples in Mt. 10:17-20**
 - Jesus told them don’t worry what you are going to say when you are brought before the council.
 - Because the Holy Spirit will give you the words to say.
- You see my dear friend the Word of God tells us that the Holy Ghost will give you and I the words to speak when dealing with a lost person about their soul and their ^{need} for Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus said in **John 15:26**, that the Comforter or the Holy Ghost would testify of Him.
 - As a side note – be leery of any group that emphasizes the Holy Spirit over Jesus.

- You see the problem with most Christians is that, they have very little for the Holy Ghost to bring to remembrance.
 - Why is this?
 - Because they are not in the Book, the Word of God like they should.
- Christians need to be in the Book more.
 - If they are in the Book more, then the Holy Spirit will have more to say through them.
- Christian, you cannot use **“I don’t know what to say”** as an excuse.
 - Because Jesus promised that the Holy Ghost would be your memory.
 - Give you the words to say, to witness for Jesus and not in any unknown tongue, Amen!!!
- God does not necessarily call great orators to witness for Him.
 - He used Moses in spite of his speech problems.
 - He used Amos the herdsman, as prophet.
 - He used the Apostles who for the most part were uneducated commercial fishermen who were rough, gruff, and poor of speech.
- Remember, the words of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians – **“For ye see ^{you} calling brethren how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called:”** 1 Cor. 1:26.

- God for the most part chooses – **the foolish things, the weak things, and the base things of the world.** → *to get the job done*

II. Simon Peter

□ Please Turn to Luke 5.

- In Luke 5, we have the account where our Lord tells Simon to launch out into the deep and to let down his nets to catch fish.

- Simon doubts Jesus and says I have fished all night and have caught nothing.
- Simon Peter says to our Lord, “nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.”
- The result was that Simon Peter caught ^{so} ~~some~~ many fishes that his net began to break and he had to call others for help.
- Peter filled not only his ship with fish but ^{the} other ships also.
- Some many fishes that the ships began to sink under the weight of the fish.
- After seeing all of this Peter says to our Lord in **verse 8**, “When Simon Peter saw [it], he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, **Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.**”

- Thus we have excuse number 2 for not serving God – **That a man is sinful.**
- Simon Peter tells Jesus – **“I am sinful”**
 - Why was he sinful?
 - Because of his unbelief.

- He hesitated before letting down his net.
- Many Christians will tell God, that they can't serve Him because they are sinful.
 - Therefore, they can't be used of God.
- You see the devil will whisper in the Christian's ear and tell him, **"You can't serve God until you are perfect, until you are squeaking clean, until you are without sin."**
- As Christians, we know there is a part of us that is sinless.
 - **1 John 3:9**, tells us "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."
 - The part of us that got born of God when we got saved, our spirit is now what is sinless.
 - The spirit is what gets born again at salvation by the Holy Spirit.
 - Even though our spiritual nature is now sinless, our physical nature or flesh is not sinless.
- Paul, the Apostle realized this fact when he said in **Romans 7:18**, **"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing."**
 - Again Paul said in **Romans 7:24** - **"O wretched man that I am!"**

- You see you and I will not be perfect and totally sinless until Jesus returns for us.
 - Then at the rapture and only then will our body ^{be} redeemed and changed into sinless perfection.
 - **See Phil. 3:20-21.**
- We want to notice in Luke 5, Jesus does not refute Simon Peter's statement, **"for I am sinful men"**
- The Word of God tells us no one is sinless that's why they need to be saved by the sinless blood of Jesus Christ.
 - The Bible says – **"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God"**
 - **"As it is written there is none righteous no not one"**
- But notice what Jesus does say in **Luke 5:10** – **"And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men."**
 - In other words, Jesus was saying to Peter, "Simon Peter despite you being a sinful man, I am going to use you"
 - And He did –
 - The Day of Pentecost Acts 2 – One of the greatest sermons ever preached – 3,000 souls saved.
 - Acts 10 – God uses Simon Peter to preach the death, burial and the resurrection of Christ to Cornelius and his household who get saved.

- **Thus opening the door for the Gentiles to be saved by the preaching of the gospel of**

Christ, *death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

- So, much for excuse # 2 – I am sinful God can't use me.
- Christian despite our failings and short-comings God can still use us.
- You don't have to be perfect or sinless for God to use you.
- However, as Peter recognized his sinfulness, we are to do the same and ask the Lord to forgive us of our sin and gives victory over that sin through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- So far we have look at two men and their excuses for not serving God.
 - The last man that we want to look at is found over in the Book of Judges.

III. Gideon

- **See Judges 6:12-16**
- **Judges 6:15** – “And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family [is] poor in Manasseh, and I [am] the least in my father's house.”
- Gideon's excuse for not serving God is that not only do I come from a poor family but I am the poorest in my family.
- Notice the Lord's reply in **v. 16** – “**Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.**”
- Christians do the same thing and come up with the same excuse as Gideon did.

- Christian often will say, **“God can’t use me because I’m poor, uneducated and have not been to Bible College.”**
- Christian we need to remember the Lord’s response to Gideon - **“Surely I will be with thee”.**
- The Bible reminds us – **“If God be for us, who can be against us?”**
 - **“...we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”**
 - **Bob Jones, Sr. said, “One man and God is a majority”**
- You see God uses the little things, the least things to do his business.
 - He used a little lad and his little lunch to feed 5,000.
 - He used the least of Jesse’s sons David, to slew Goliath.
 - God is good at using the least to get the job done.
 - Remember, little is much if God is in it.
- We see later on in the Book of Judges how Gideon starts out with 32,000 men and God whittles it down to 300 men carrying trumpets, and lamps inside pitchers to fight against 135,000 Midianities.
 - The odds were 450 to 1!
 - But Gideon and his men prevailed because as the Lord promised, **“Surely I will be with thee”**
 - So much for the excuse – **“I am poor, I am the least”**
- Paul, the Apostle wrote to Timothy and told him, **“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;”**

- You see Christian –
 - You have ^{no} ~~not~~ excuse for not serving the Lord because it is the Lord Jesus Christ that ^{does} the **enabling**, Amen!!!
 - All He wants you to do is be **faithful** to that which he has given you to do.
- We have look at three excuses for not serving God –
 - I am slow of speech.
 - I am a sinful man.
 - I am poor and the least.
- But praise God!!! – We saw that God had an answer for each one.
- What is your excuse for not serving God?
 - God has an answer for it!
 - All you have to do like these men of God did was listen to and trust Him.
- You have a choice to listen to Him now and Go like Moses did, like Simon Peter did and like Gideon did.
- Or wait until you hit the Judgment Seat of Christ and find out you come up empty handed in the rewards department.
- You will not lost your salvation but your opportunity to serve the Lord will be lost.
 - And as a result you will loose rewards that could have been yours.
 - ~~But~~ ^B because you did not choose to **“Occupy until he comes”**

- You will be like that servant found over in **Luke 19:20-26** who choose not to serve the Lord until His return.
- And when the Lord returned, the Lord took the pound from the unfaithful servant and gave it to another servant who had been faithful and served the Lord while He was gone.
- This unfaithful servant was still saved but had lost his reward and it was given to the servant who had been faithful.
- My dear, friend will this be your fate at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
- All I can say is “The choice is yours. The choice is yours.”
- **Plea to the unsaved!**