

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In Exodus 3 & 4, you move with Moses from a long-hidden season into a holy interruption where God speaks and calls him to lead. God reveals Himself as holy, personal, and powerful, yet Moses responds with a series of excuses rooted in insecurity, fear, and avoidance. Instead of boosting Moses' confidence, God points Moses to His own presence and authority, promising, "I will be with you." This passage shows you that obedience comes before confidence, not after it. Excuses may delay what God wants to do, but faithful obedience unlocks God's deliverance and power.

MAIN POINTS

Excuse 1: Insecurity – “Who am I?” (Exodus 3:11–12) God's presence matters more than your confidence. Moses focused on his identity and limitations instead of God's calling. God did not correct Moses' self-assessment; He redirected Moses to His presence. God's promise, "I will be with you," is greater than Moses' self-doubt.

Excuse 2: Uncertainty – “Who are You?” (Exodus 3:13–15) Obedience flows from knowing who God is, not having all the answers. Moses wanted reassurance that others would recognize God's authority. God revealed His covenant name, Yahweh, emphasizing that He is eternal and self-existent. God affirmed Himself rather than affirming Moses.

Excuse 3: Fear – “What if they don't believe me?” (Exodus 4:1–9) Fear looks ahead to rejection, but faith trusts God with the results. Moses anticipated rejection before obedience. God provided signs, while also preparing Moses for resistance. God is not threatened by human doubt or disbelief.

Excuse 4: Inadequacy – “I'm not a good speaker.” (Exodus 4:10–12) God's authority outweighs your inadequacy. Moses pointed to a personal weakness to avoid responsibility. God reminded Moses that He is the Creator of the mouth and the giver of ability. God promised to teach Moses what to say.

Excuse 5: Avoidance – “Please find someone else.” (Exodus 4:13–15) Excuses delay what obedience delivers. Moses' final excuse revealed reluctance rather than confusion. God's anger showed that delayed obedience still matters. God graciously provided Aaron, without removing Moses' calling.

Big Idea: **Excuses delay what obedience delivers.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does God reveal His name and character before sending Moses on mission? *Possible Answer:* God revealed His name to ground Moses' faith in God's unchanging nature and authority. Mission flows from who God is, not from human ability. Praise God for that! (Exodus 3:14–15; Psalm 46:10).

2. Which of Moses' excuses do you most identify with right now: insecurity, uncertainty, fear, inadequacy, or avoidance? *Possible Answer:* You may recognize that fear or inadequacy has kept you from taking a step of obedience God has already made clear. (Exodus 4:10; Proverbs 3:5–6).

3. Where might God be calling you to obey even though you do not feel ready?

Possible Answer: God may be prompting you to serve, forgive, speak truth, or step into leadership despite feeling unprepared (Exodus 3:12; 2 Corinthians 12:9).

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Exodus 3 & 4 points you forward to Jesus, the ultimate Deliverer sent by God. Where Moses hesitated, Jesus obeyed fully, trusting the Father even unto death (Philippians 2:8). Like Moses, you are called to repent of excuses, self-reliance, and delayed obedience. As a believer, you are invited to believe again that God is with you and powerful enough to work through you. As an unbeliever, you are called to repent, believe in Christ's finished work, and trust Him as Savior and Lord, knowing that true deliverance comes through faith in Jesus alone (Acts 4:12).

You are not called because you are able; you are able because God calls and goes with you. When God speaks, delayed obedience is still disobedience. Trust who God is, take your next step, and watch what obedience delivers.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Monday – Insecurity: “Who Am I?”

Key Verse: “But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh...?’ He said, ‘But I will be with you.’” (Exodus 3:11–12)

Reflection: When God called Moses, Moses immediately looked inward and felt unqualified. God did not argue with Moses about his weaknesses; instead, He promised His presence. God’s call is never built on your confidence but on His nearness.

Application Question: Where are you letting insecurity keep you from obeying God? **Possible Answer:** You may realize that fear of inadequacy has caused you to delay a clear step God has already revealed (Exodus 3:12; 2 Corinthians 12:9).

Prayer Response: Lord, I confess that I often focus on who I am not instead of who You are. Help me trust Your presence more than my insecurity. Teach me to obey even when I feel unqualified, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Tuesday – Uncertainty: “Who Are You?”

Key Verse: “God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’” (Exodus 3:14)

Reflection: Moses wanted clarity before commitment, but God revealed His name instead of a detailed plan. “I AM” reminds you that God is self-existent, faithful, and unchanging. Obedience grows when you know who God is, not when you know every outcome.

Application Question: Are you waiting for certainty instead of trusting God’s character? **Possible Answer:** You may be delaying obedience because you want more information, when God is asking you to trust His unchanging nature (Proverbs 3:5–6).

Prayer Response: Faithful God, forgive me for demanding answers instead of trusting Your name. Help me rest in who You are and follow You even when the path is unclear, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Wednesday – Fear: “What If They Don’t Believe Me?”

Key Verse: “Then Moses answered, ‘But behold, they will not believe me.’” (Exodus 4:1)

Reflection: Moses feared rejection before obedience even began. God gives signs but also makes it clear that resistance will still come. Faith does not mean success without opposition; it means trusting God with the results!

Application Question: What fear of rejection is keeping you silent or stalled? **Possible Answer:** You may be holding back from speaking truth or stepping out because you fear how others will respond (Galatians 1:10).

Prayer Response: God, You know my fear of being rejected or misunderstood. Help me obey You even when the outcome is uncertain. I trust You with the results, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Thursday – Inadequacy: “I’m Not a Good Speaker”

Key Verse: “Who has made man’s mouth? ... Is it not I, the Lord?” (Exodus 4:11)

Reflection: Moses highlighted his weakness as a reason to disobey. God responded by reminding Moses that He is the Creator and Sustainer of all ability. God’s authority is greater than your limitations.

Application Question: What weakness are you using as an excuse to avoid obedience? **Possible Answer:** You may be focusing on what you lack instead of trusting God to work through you (2 Corinthians 3:5).

Prayer Response: Creator God, I surrender my weaknesses to You. Use what I lack to display Your strength. Teach me to rely on You instead of myself, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Friday – Avoidance: “Please Send Someone Else”

Key Verse: “Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.” (Exodus 4:13)

Reflection: Moses’ final excuse revealed resistance, not confusion. God’s anger showed that delayed obedience still matters, yet His grace remained as He provided Aaron. Excuses don’t stop God’s plan, but they do delay the blessing of obedience.

Application Question: What step of obedience are you currently avoiding? **Possible Answer:** You may sense God calling you to act, serve, forgive, or lead, but hesitation has kept you from moving forward (James 1:22).

Prayer Response: Lord, I repent of avoiding what You’ve clearly asked of me. Give me the courage to take my next step of obedience today. I trust You to supply what obedience requires, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.