

Up From Slavery

A man / A people / A plan

Overcoming Obstacles to
Effectiveness?

Exodus 3:11- 4:17

Doubt

Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you’?”

What is the object of Moses’ doubt?

The Elders among the Hebrews

God

The Obstacle of Doubt

Confronting fear

² Then the LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?”

“A staff,” he replied.

³ The LORD said, “Throw it on the ground.”

The Obstacle of Doubt

Confronting fear. . .

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. ⁴ Then the LORD said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. ⁵ “This,” said the LORD, “is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.”

The Obstacle of Doubt

Learning proper “fear” . . .

⁶ Then the LORD said, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was leprous, like snow.

⁷ “Now put it back into your cloak,” he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.

The Obstacle of Doubt

Developing trust . . .

⁸ Then the LORD said, “If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first miraculous sign, they may believe the second. ⁹ But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground.”

I can't. . .

¹⁰ Moses said to the LORD, “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.”

¹¹ The LORD said to him, “Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD?”

¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

I don't want to . . .

¹³ But Moses said, “O Lord, please send someone else to do it.”

¹⁴ Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses and he said, “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and his heart will be glad when he sees you. ¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. ¹⁶ He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your

I don't want to . . .

mouth and as if you were God to him. ¹⁷ But take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it.”

To Go . . .

- Do you doubt God's ability to work through you to accomplish His purposes? Why?
- Why do we depreciate our abilities when it comes to ministry?
- Since we know that God was angry in the face of Moses' reticence/cowardice how do you think He responds when we are lethargic?
- Next week: Exodus 4:18-31