

A “NOBODY” BECOMES SOMEBODY

Exodus 3:1-4:17

Moody: **THREE KEY PERIODS IN MOSES’ LIFE:**

Moses spent the 1st 40 years of his life thinking he was somebody.

Moses spent the 2nd 40 years of his life believing he was a nobody.

Moses spent last 40 years learning God delights in turning nobodies into somebody.--people He can use to do great things for His glory.

After 40 years in the desert, learning to wait on God, Moses was finally ready to be used by God.

Now it’s going to take some real convincing!

Moses has learned the hard way that it doesn’t pay to run ahead of God.

In fact maybe it doesn’t pay to run at all!

He is excited about God’s plan, and wants to see God’s people free, but he considers himself incapable of leading them.

“Who am I?” Have you ever asked yourself that question?

“Who am I?” God couldn’t use *ME*, could He?

Same person who thought he could accomplish God’s plans single-handed, after 40 years in the desert considers himself incapable.

He doesn’t want to fail again.

Then God meets Moses--at the burning bush.

He’s just spent 40 years wandering around the desert, thinking--in his mind at least--it was because he bungled the job.

God had done a thorough job of teaching Moses he was a nobody.

Now he’s ready to learn that God specializes in turning “nobodies” into somebody who can do great things for God’s glory.

Moses has developed a bad case of the “Who ME’s?”

But he’s only one of many.

Jeremiah—God calls him as His spokesman. “*B-b-b-but Lord, I’m just a kid. I’m not qualified to be your spokesman.*” The Lord says, “Don’t say you’re just a kid. **I’m** going to put MY words in your mouth!”

David—the kid brother of some great fighters. His father didn’t even call him in from the field when Samuel came looking for a king. “*Oh yeah, there is one more, but he’s just a young shepherd boy! You wouldn’t be interested!*”

Gideon—weakest clan, weakest member of his family, but God assures him that He is with him, and that is enough. So a mighty army of 300 defeats more than 120,000.

Paul: God chooses few of the great and mighty you expect Him to call. He calls weak and foolish people, to confuse the strong and wise.

God’s strength is made perfect *through our strength*??!! No. His strength is made perfect in our **weakness!**

**God specializes in calling the most unlikely people
in the most unlikely ways, to do His best work!**

About the time you're ready to say, "God could never use ME!--that's when He says,
"You're the one!"

One day, after his colossal moment of infamy, Moses was sitting out on the desert, caring for his sheep.

GOD APPEARS TO MOSES IN THE DESERT 3:1-6

Moses was quietly tending sheep in the desert 1

The Lord appears in a blazing fire 2

Moses is curious. He wants to know why the bush wasn't consumed 3

When He begins to come near, the Lord warns him that this is holy ground. God is here! Take off your shoes!

Initial reaction: fear and trembling; God was revealing Himself!

The Lord's presence creates holy ground 4-6

So Moses hides his face--in a moment of spontaneous, holy worship--out of fear at suddenly finding himself in *GOD's* presence!

God told him He was going to liberate Israel from the Egyptians.

Moses would be the instrument God would use to free them 3:7-10

GOD INTENDS TO USE MOSES TO DELIVER HIS PEOPLE FROM EGYPT 7-10

God is aware of their suffering 7

God has come down to deliver them 8

God has seen their oppression 9

God is sending Moses to lead them out of Egypt 10

Although Moses is excited about the plan, and wants to see his people free, he doesn't consider himself capable of carrying out the assignment.

He learned his lesson!

He doesn't want to experience the same kind of failure again.

So he starts making excuses.

Moses has serious questions about whether God knows what He's doing!

Have you taken a close look at what you're getting?

How could you ever think I could do this job?

I blew it big time the last time!!! Remember?

God has to convince Him.

God reveals His glory to Moses.

He has to show him it's different when you do *God's will, God's way!*

MOSES RESPONDS WITH FIVE OBJECTIONS 3:11-4:17

1. 3:11-12— *"Who am I? I'm nobody. Pharoah will never listen to ME!"*

First objection: "Who am I?" 3:11-12

Moses isn't capable of delivering God's people 3:11

God responds: "Your right, Moses. Doesn't disagree with premise

What's important *isn't* the messenger!

God assures him He'll be with him 3:12

I'll be with you. — that's all you need! Trust me!

Success doesn't depend on *our abilities*, but on *God's presence* and *His abilities*, which He promises to supply for us.

GOD IS PRESENT TO PROVIDE EVERYTHING WE LACK!

2. 3:13-15 — *"But Lord, suppose they ask me a theological question and I don't know the answer? What if they ask me 'who IS the God who sent you? What's His name? I won't know how to answer their questions! I'm no theologian!"*

What's His name? I won't know how to answer their questions! I'm no theologian!"

Second objection: "What shall I say to them?" 13-22

Moses fears he won't be able to answer their questions 13

God gives him the answer to their questions 14-22

The Self-Existent One has sent him 14

Yahweh, the God of their fathers, has sent him 15

*"Just tell them that the God who IS — the *eternally existent One* — 'I am' has sent you! That's all they need to know.*

This eternally self-existent One will be with Moses and God's people to free them from Pharaoh's hands. 3:16-22

Yahweh, the God of their fathers, cares about them 16

Yahweh, the God of their fathers, will bring them out of Egypt into the promised land 17-22

He promises to bring them out of Egypt and into the promised land 17

He promises that the leaders of God's people will listen to him 18a

He promises that the king of Egypt won't let them go 18b-19

He promises to send signs that will convince the king to let them go 20

He promises that they won't go out empty-handed 21-22

GOD PROVIDES ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ANSWERED!

3. 4:1 — *"But Lord, what if they don't believe that You really sent me?"*

Third objection: "What if they won't listen to me?" 4:1-9

Moses fears rejection by God's people 1

God responds: *"I can use whatever you have in your hands to make evident that I am with you. Just give it to me, and I'll use it. All you have to do is throw your old rod on the ground, and I'll make it come to life. They'll know I'm with you before this is all over!"*

God gives 3 convincing signs 2-9

Sign of the staff which becomes a snake 2-5

Sign of the hand which becomes leprous 6-8

Sign of the water which becomes blood 9

Signs confirmed God's promise to free His people.

4. 4:10-12 — *"But Lord, I'm no public speaker."*

Fourth objection: “I can’t speak well enough!” 10-12

Moses fears failure 10 *What if I can’t convince them?*

“Moses, I made the mouth, I can speak through it. Just leave that to me!”

God can control his speech 11-12

God gives the ability to speak 11

God will enable him to speak 12

GOD PROVIDES THE ABILITY TO DO EVERYTHING HE CALLS US TO DO!

God patiently responds time after time to Moses’ questions.

It didn’t make sense to him.

God patiently responds, time after time, to make clear that He’s expert at making something valuable out of unlikely people!

Then Moses makes a bad mistake! *He tries to get out of it! 4:13*

“Lord, send somebody else! ANYBODY else will do! Just NOT ME!”

Fifth objection: “Send somebody else!” 13-17

Moses tries to get out of it 13

God becomes angry 14a 1st time He’s angry!

God provides a helper 14b-17

You tell Aaron what to say 14b-15a

I’ll tell you what to do 15b-17

That wasn’t God’s best plan and it caused grief to Moses later!

When God says *“I want to use you to do something great for my glory!”*

Ask all the questions you want. God will answer them, one by one.

But *DON’T* try to get out of it.

Moses learned it doesn’t pay. **Jonah** learned it doesn’t pay. And **so will YOU!**

If God calls, *just do it!*

God *specializes in calling some of the most unlikely people, in some of the most unlikely ways to do some of His best work!*

He just might surprise *US* by deciding to use *US!*

**GOD PROVIDES EVERYTHING WE NEED
TO DO EVERYTHING HE CALLS US TO DO!**

Doing things God’s way, gets God’s results!

Result: God is glorified!

Lesson for godly people:

Isn’t Moses’ situation much like ours?

We try to make things happen *our way*? It doesn’t work.

So we’re afraid to try at all!

God wants us to wait on Him!

He makes all things beautiful *in His time!*

He wants to accomplish something great through *US!*