



HEBRON

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Dr. Landon Dowden

**OUR INADEQUACIES BUT GOD'S SUFFICIENCY:
How God moves His People from Wailing to Worship and from Slavery to Service
Exodus 2:23-4:20**

Passage in a Sentence: Neither our excuses nor His enemies' efforts can ultimately thwart God from accomplishing His plan to set His people free to worship Him.

An Important Truth in the Passage: When calling and commissioning us, God's confidence is in His sufficiency and not ours.

- Neither our failures nor our excuses cause God to give up on His plan to use us.
- God does whatever He pleases with whomever He pleases when acting on behalf of His children.

**I. WHEN YOU THINK GOD DOES NOT HEAR YOUR PRAYERS – HE DOES – KEEP PRAYING.
(2:23-25)**

- a. Look at these words: God heard; God remembered (took action); God saw (looked upon); God knew.
- b. Our prayers are a part of God's providence. (Genesis 15)
- c. God's actions are based on His goodness and not ours
- d. Let us devote ourselves to prayer. (Colossians 4:2)
- e. Let us keep praying without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

II. WHEN YOU THINK YOUR FAILURES HAVE CAUSED GOD TO FORSAKE YOU – THEY NEVER WILL – DON'T GIVE UP. (3:1)

- a. God ordains the wilderness to refine us and not to ruin us.
- b. You are not used goods – God can still use you!
- c. Moses' life was not preserved just to be a former prince but to be a faithful prophet.

III. WHEN YOU THINK GOD HAS FORGOTTEN YOU OR DOES NOT KNOW WHERE YOU ARE – REST ASSURED – HE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU – EVEN THE RIGHT TIME TO USE YOU. (3:2-6)

- a. God frequently does extraordinary things on ordinary days.
- b. God knows where we are, what's going on, and the best time and ways to use all of us.
- c. God calls us by name!

IV. WHEN YOU THINK GOD IS PASSIVE AND NOT DOING ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR SITUATION – REST ASSURED GOD IS ALWAYS ACTIVE AND WORKING HIS PLAN TO REDEEM HIS PEOPLE. (3:7-9)

- a. Let Him speak for Himself:
 - i. I have surely seen.
 - ii. I have heard.
 - iii. I know.
 - iv. I have come down.
 - v. I have seen.
- b. God is not passive. He is actively involved in His world.
- c. There is no clearer picture of God coming down to deliver His people than the incarnation of Christ.

V. WHEN ALL YOU SEE ARE YOUR INADEQUACIES – QUIT MAKING EXCUSES AND LOOK TO OUR SUFFICIENT GOD. (3:10-4:20)

- a. When calling and commissioning us, God’s confidence is in His sufficiency and not ours.
- b. We are all in trouble when “Here Am I” turns into “Who am I?”
- c. Moses’ Excuses and God’s Sufficiency:
 - i. Excuse #1 – Who am I? – I can’t do it. (3:11)
 - ii. Reply #1 – I will be with you
 - iii. Excuse #2 – I won’t know what to say – I don’t have all the answers. (3:13)
 - iv. Reply #2 – Tell them what I told you – I AM has sent me to you (Jesus will flesh “I Am” out more in the Gospel of John.)
 - v. Excuse #3 – What if they don’t believe me. (4:1)
 - vi. Reply #3 – Didn’t I just answer that? (3:18) – Do these three signs and trust ME for the results.
 - vii. Excuse #4 – I don’t speak well. (4:10)
 - viii. Reply #4 – I made you – I will give you what you need.
 - ix. Excuse #5 – Please send someone else. (4:13)
 - x. Reply #5 – I’ll send Aaron with you.
- d. Thoughts:
 - i. Motyer: The Lord does not call us because of our adequacy, nor is His presence conditional upon us becoming adequate, it is rather promised to those who are inadequate.
 - ii. Consider the sufficient God who does not want to send someone else – Quit making excuses and look to Him.
 - iii. Which characterizes our lives more: excuses or obedience?
 - iv. Which influences us more: our self-doubt or our trust in God?
- e. Moses heads to Egypt with God’s provision and power. (4:18-20)
 - i. God clears the way with the in-laws!!!!
 - ii. God clears the way with those who wanted to kill Moses.

VI. WHEN YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND ALL OF GOD'S PLAN, TRUST THAT HE DOES AND BE OBEDIENT. (4:21-23)

- a. God does whatever He pleases with whomever He pleases when acting on behalf of His children. (Proverbs 21:1; Isaiah 45:4-6)
- b. Moses' part (4:21a) - Obedience is essential not complete understanding.
- c. God's part (4:21b)
 - i. The deliverance of Egypt is entirely God's doing and under His complete control.
 - ii. Pharaoh receives justice (God shows that Pharaoh is no god after all).
 - iii. Israel and Moses receive mercy.
 - iv. God's sovereignty is ultimately a great and humbling mystery.

VII. WHEN YOU THINK YOU CAN IGNORE YOUR SIN AND STILL BE USED BY GOD, THINK AGAIN BECAUSE HOLINESS MATTERS TO GOD. (4:24-26)

- a. What's going on:
 - i. Moses is about to be killed.
 - ii. He had not circumcised one or both of his sons.
 - iii. This was the sign of the covenant. (Genesis 17:9-14)
 - iv. Zipporah circumcises her son. (Moses once again rescued by a lady in his life.)
 - v. God relents.
- b. What can we learn?
 - i. Sin was Moses' greatest obstacle (Hebrews 12:1 – throw off the sin that so easily entangles.)
 - ii. What may be hidden to others is not hidden from God and He will not be mocked.
 - iii. He cares about complete obedience.

VIII. WHEN YOU ARE TEMPTED TO DOUBT GOD, REMEMBER THINGS ALWAYS WORK OUT THE WAY HE PLANS THEM. (4:27-31)

- a. The passage opens with God's people praying with groans but ends with God's people praising with gratitude.
- b. **Mink:** Lord, I am willing. I am willing to receive what You give. I am willing to lack what You withhold. I am willing to relinquish what You take. I am willing to suffer what You require.
- c. Let us: Trust God - Obey God - Worship God.