



The Caller

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Confidence Comer John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* I want us to examine how each and every part of the Bible contains information that is vital. Consider for example how often we will read over the first part of the book of Exodus

to get to the "Burning Bush." But in doing so, we miss a very important aspect of how the LORD has blessed the descendants of Abraham. In a sense, these promises go back all the way to Adam.

In Exodus 1:7 the verbs used to describe Israel's growth in Egypt ("were fruitful, multiplied, became numerous, was filled with them") are simply the fulfillment of the promised blessings and mandates that the LORD made to Adam (Gen. 1:28), Noah (Gen. 9:1, 7), Abraham (Gen. 13:16; 15:5; 17:2), and Jacob (Gen. 28:14; 46:3). Pharaoh is on edge because his slave force is growing. What he does not realize is that this is a result of the LORD having blest His people.

Pharaoh begins his vain effort to stop that growth of the Israelites. He will not be successful because it is the LORD Who is blessing them. Nonetheless Pharaoh, in an effort to stop the growth of the Israelites in his land, tries first to increase their labors. But the text reveals, the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied. Next, he will attempt to convince the midwives to aid him in his effort to decrease the population. If a male child is born Pharaoh desired them to kill the child. The girls could live. When the midwives did not co-operate with Pharaoh, his next plan also involved killing the male children by casting them into the river. Again the girls would be spared.

Apparently, Pharaoh was not concerned with the girls rising up against him; he was only concerned with the men growing to such numbers that he would easily be defeated. What he should have been concerned about was not the men, but the LORD who was blessing His people. This lesson Pharaoh would learn in time.

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Excuses, excuses! Excuses are like ampits. Everybody has them and they all stink. When was the last time you made an excuse? Even if it was an excuse to get out of something, an excuse to keep from getting into trouble, or an excuse to break the rules—we have all used one or two.

Excuses are easy to make and easy to depend on. Why do people make excuses? Humans have been making stinky excuses since the time of the first sin. We like to point fingers putting the blame on someone or something else. Moses is known to be one of the great Bible characters in the Old Testament. Before he became a great servant of God he was a great giver of excuses. In Exodus Moses gives 5 different excuses to get out of the task God laid before him.

Excuse 1: I'm not good enough. "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" -Exodus 3:11

Excuse 2: I don't have all the answers. "Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" -Exodus 3:13

Excuse 3: People won't believe me. "Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'" -Exodus 4:1

Excuse 4: I'm a terrible public speaker. "Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." -Exodus 4:10

Excuse 5: I'm not qualified. "But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send." -Exodus 4:13

It isn't about what you're bad at or not good at. It's not about what you know or don't know. Being a servant of God is about what God can do through you and with you. If you allow Him to take the lead, saving people from sin will be something far greater and easier than parting the Red Sea.

Mitchell's Weekly Manna Mitchell Lockhart

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — What is a Christian?
Matthew 28:18-20**

**P.M. — What Wakes You?
Matthew 26:30-35**

MOSES AND US

When the LORD appeared to Moses in the burning bush and told him to go to Pharaoh and tell him to “Let my people go,” Moses devised a series of excuses that he believed disqualified him as God’s choice. Perhaps God has made a mistake in judgment!

Moses’ many excuses were as follows: First Moses offered the excuse of inadequacy when he said, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?” (Ex. 3:11). When the LORD answered that excuse Moses offered his second excuse—that of ignorance “If I come to the people of Israel ... and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” (Ex. 3:13). When the LORD answered again Moses said that the thing he was asked to do was too incredible--“But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you’ ” (Ex. 4:1). When the LORD answered that excuse Moses noted his inability to speak--“Oh, my LORD, I am not eloquent ... but I am slow of speech and of tongue” (Ex. 4:10). Finally, Moses gets to his last excuse and he reveals what the real problem is...insubordination: “Oh, my LORD, send, I pray, some other person” (Ex. 4:13). Moses wanted the LORD to send anyone but him!

In offering all his excuses Moses is thinking in terms of what he can do as a human, not in terms of what the LORD can do. It matters not who the servant is or what that servant’s abilities might be, if deity is present. Ex. 3:12 is the LORD's answer to the first of many excuses Moses will offer in an attempt to avoid the mission the LORD has chosen for him. To answer Moses’ first excuse, the LORD promises, “I will be with you.” That was really all the answer Moses should have needed.

But wait a minute, why are we so hard on Moses? Doesn’t the Lord promise us that if we will take his gospel to all nations that He will be with us? Yet how often do we offer excuses as to why we do not share the Gospel? You see we are not so different from Moses. The question becomes will we finally go with the gospel and like Moses find out just how the Lord being with us will bless our efforts? I pray we all will have the faith to trust the Lord and do His will.

*John F. Board
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