

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of May 30, 2021

The Great Escape: Please Send Someone Else , Exodus 4:1-17

Pastor Johnson- Contemporary Service & 8:30, Pastor Temple- Traditional Service

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events or faith experiences since you last met?
- Are there joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)
- **Opening Discussion Question-** Have you overcome the fear of public speaking? If so, how did you do it? If not, why do you think public speaking makes you afraid?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the scriptures from this week's sermon message and then discuss the questions which follow as time allows. There are more questions than you will have time for, so it is ok to be selective.

Exodus 4:1-17

Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?"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." 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."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, the skin was leprous—it had become as white as 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.⁸ Then the LORD said, "If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first 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."¹⁰ Moses said to the LORD, "Pardon your servant, 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 human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."¹³ But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else."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 he will be glad to see 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 mouth and as if you were God to him.¹⁷ But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it."

1. If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
2. Background: In past weeks we learned that Moses' life was saved as a baby through courageous and compassionate women, raised as the son of the Pharaoh's daughter in the palace, killed an Egyptian as an adult out of sense of vigilante justice, fled to the wilderness out of fear of the Pharaoh's threats against him, found a new wife and life in Midian and while shepherding experienced the presence of God in the wilderness in a burning bush. In the reading today, Moses' conversation with Yahweh, The LORD of Israel, continued with plans for the deliverance of God's people out of slavery in Egypt.
3. Prior to 4:1, Moses had already responded to the Lord's calling him to bring his people out of Egypt with two questions/objections. 1- Who am I to do this? (Ex. 3:11) and 2- What if they ask who you are? (Ex. 3:13). Here Moses adds 3- What if they do not believe me? (4:1). How does the Lord patiently respond to this third question/objection? (vs. 2- 9).
4. Why do you think the LORD chooses to use the instrument of Moses' shepherd staff in these forthcoming miracles?
5. Why would the LORD ask Moses to pick up the snake that was the staff, by the tail?
6. How does the Lord respond to Moses' fourth question/objection of not being qualified, his speaking ability? (vs. 10)
7. So far, the LORD has patiently responded to each question, but Moses' 5th objection (not really a question but a request), please send someone else, causes the Lord to be angry (vs. 14). Why do you think the LORD does not get angry until the fifth question/objection?
8. After the LORD's four patient responses and promises, why do you think Moses still didn't want to obey the calling the LORD was giving him? The Pharaoh who wanted to kill him had already died (2:23). Did he not believe in the cause, in himself, in the LORD's words or was it something else?
9. How did His brother Aaron help in this mission? How could or would this modified plan later hurt the mission? (Ex. 32:17-25)

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

1. As you reflect upon the sermon and the scripture readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
2. How has the kind of trust the Lord has called us to, gradually increased over time? What various baby steps along the way can you identify?
3. Where have you seen or experienced "God does not call the equipped, He equips the called"?
4. Since God often does not choose the "heroes" or those with abilities that are much greater than everyone else, but works great miracles through ordinary people even with and through all their weaknesses, what is God calling us to do?
5. What self-doubts are holding us back in fully engaging in where God is leading us?
6. How can the power and grace of God be shown even with more clarity in working through our weaknesses?

Witness and Closing (10 minutes)

- What wrongs or injustices are God leading us to work with Him in undoing as He did with Moses?
- A volunteer may conclude by leading the group in prayer about the joys and concerns shared earlier in the meeting