

## Resisting God's Will

Have you ever had an argument with God? Perhaps God revealed to you something that He wanted you to do, and you didn't want to do it. So, you argued and gave Him every excuse for why you couldn't. As we see in today's Templates of Truth, such resistance is futile.

In Exodus 2, the Bible introduces us to Moses - the great patriarch of the faith. Like all of us, God had a destiny for Moses' life, and God revealed it to him one day as he was grazing livestock in the wilderness area of Mount Horeb – *And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush...yet the bush was not consumed* (Exodus 3:2). Having heard the cries of the Hebrew people under Egyptian oppression, God told Moses – *I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people...out of Egypt* (Exodus 3:10). From the clear and miraculous way God revealed it, Moses could not mistake God's will and expectation for his life. His will for you and me is just as clear, although not always as dramatic.

The task was difficult, fearful and filled with all kinds of uncertainties. Moses was convinced that he was the wrong man for the job, so in a series of challenging questions Moses sought to convince God that he was not the best choice. In a fundamental sense, Moses accused God of making a mistake, and God is incapable of error, whether it be in Moses' life or in our life. In each objection Moses raised, God gave an irrefutable answer.

The first objection was – *Who am I, that I should go?* (Exodus 3:11). Like many of us, Moses didn't see himself as anyone special to be assigned such a bold mission. We contend with God about our inexperience, inadequacy, or lack of education in comparison with others we consider far better qualified. To this objection, God said – *Certainly I will be with you* (Exodus 3:12). When God is with you, all the experience, knowledge and skill you need is already operating effectively on your behalf.

The second objection was – *What shall I say to them?* (Exodus 3:13). Moses was concerned about by whose authority he was being sent. God instructed Moses to tell them – *I AM has sent me to you* (Exodus 3:14). The message that Moses would convey was that of assurance that their covenant God had heard their cries for help and was about to lead them to their own land of promise. The key here is - the message would authenticate the messenger. When representing God, we will always succeed as long as we are faithful to proclaim the truth of His Word in the task.

The third objection was – *What if they will not believe me or listen to what I say?* (Exodus 4:1). We often get so focused on the ends that we allow their uncertainty to deter us from the means. Paul made it clear to the Corinthians that God is responsible for the results – *God causes the growth* (I Corinthians 3:7). God asked Moses a profound question – *What is that in your hand?* (Exodus 4:2). The *staff* that was in Moses' hand became an instrument of God's divine power as it would be demonstrated to both the Hebrews and the Egyptians. What is in your hand? You

may not think you have a lot to offer God, but remember that little is much when God is in it. King David had nothing more than a slingshot and a rock, but look how far God took him with just a slingshot and a rock!

The fourth objection was – *I have never been eloquent (with words)...I am slow of speech* (Exodus 4:10). We often raise the issue of our lack of ability to communicate as effectively as others, particularly more eloquent preachers and teachers. We claim we are just not good with words, but God declares – *I will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say* (Exodus 4:12). That divine process is still in place working in and through the lives of believers today as we proclaim God’s Word through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

The last objection Moses raised was actually a refusal – *Please, Lord, now send the message by whomever Thou wilt* (Exodus 4:13). In other words, “I just can’t; so send somebody else!” God does not take kindly to being refused by His children – *then the anger of the Lord burned against Moses* (Exodus 4:14). God is not going to force your compliance, but being the recipient of God’s anger is not a place in life you want to be! When you tell God, “No!” you have placed yourself in opposition to Him, and that is the position where failure, ruin and judgment becomes the course of your life. In His grace and mercy, God countered the decline of Moses with an offer to use his brother *Aaron* as a companion and partner in ministry. God understands your frailties and fears, but if you will cooperate with Him by yielding your life to His desires, He will always provide the ways and means for your success.

Are you resisting that which God is dealing with you about today? Can you imagine how miserable Moses would have been had he just walked away from God and the opportunity before Him? Make no mistake; the Hebrew people would have been liberated, only by another leader. God would have given the Ten Commandments and the Law to someone else. Another, more faithful servant, would have contributed the first five books of inspired Scripture. Peter, James and John would have seen another Old Testament saint on the mountain of Transfiguration with Jesus and Elijah. Moses would have been robbed of the blessings and forgotten in the wilderness. Have you considered what all you may be forfeiting for you and your family by not cooperating with God?

That’s today’s Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide in Christ. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in the Lord Jesus.