



*From Slavery to Freedom*  
*Lesson #2*

**Jim Hoffman**

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# The Call of Moses

Ex 3:1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight — why the bush does not burn up." 4 When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." 5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." 6 Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. 7 The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey — the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

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# The Call of Moses

Ex 3:9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" 12 And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." 13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" 14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" 15 God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob — has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation. NIV

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# The Call of Moses

- The Lord sent the Angel of the Lord to call Gideon.
- The Lord gave Isaiah a vision in the temple to call him.
- The Lord touched the mouth of Jeremiah to call him.
- And he blinded the Apostle Paul when he called him.

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# The Call of Moses

- So what do Gideon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Paul and Moses have in common?
- The call of God began with a close encounter with the living God.
- Next the call was made plain to them.
- Finally, they were all promised God's presence.

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# The Call of Moses

- When Chapter 3 opens we find Moses, the once heir apparent in Egypt, tending sheep.
- But these were not just any sheep, they were his father-in-law's sheep – my what a step down!
- “The humble are those who have been humiliated.” Joni Erickson Tada

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# The Call of Moses

- God calls us from some of the oddest places.
  - David was tending sheep
  - Abraham lived in a pagan land
  - Gideon was threshing wheat
  - Paul was serving arrest warrants

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# The Call of Moses

- God is a consuming fire in the expected sense to His enemies.
- For God's people He wants the facts to be such that we are consumed with Him.
- The burning bush Moses saw was a picture of what God can do – he can start a fire that never burns out and never runs out of fuel.



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# The Call of Moses

- 1 Thess 5:19 Do not put out the Spirit's fire NIV
- Heb 1:7 In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire ." NIV
- Acts 2:3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. NIV

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# The Call of Moses

- Moses may have heard of Jehovah God before, but now he is awestruck and will hold God in reverential fear for the rest of his life.
- He encounters the God of fire and power, but he also hears first hand how much He cares about His people.
- Ex 3:7 The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.  
NIV

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# The Call of Moses

- Ex 3:8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey – NIV
- He will deliver His people from the Egyptians.
- He will lead them out of Egypt.
- He will lead them to a better place.

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# The Call of Moses

- Hundreds of years later Christ will do for all men what Moses was tasked to do for Israel.
- Jesus delivers from the oppressor. (Satan / Egyptians)
- Jesus frees us from living for the world. (Egypt)
- Jesus leads us to that better city. (Canaan)

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# The Call of Moses

- Moses is given instructions by God to go to Pharaoh and ask for the Israelites to be let go.
- Ex 3:10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." NIV
- It seems odd that Moses would hesitate at all since he had the idea 40 years ago.

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# The Excuses of Moses

- Excuse #1 – “who am I”
- I am unqualified – sure I was once royalty in Egypt, but that was 40 years and many sheep ago.
- I am but a shepherd, what qualifications do I have?
- God’s remedy for Moses weakness – I will be with you.

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# The Excuses of Moses

- Excuse #2 – I don't know what to say.
- Moses was thinking he had nothing to say that was powerful enough to convince Pharaoh to let all of his free labor go.
- God provided the proper context for Moses' plea to Pharaoh – God sent me.

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# The Excuses of Moses

- Excuse #3 – They won't believe me.
- When he told Pharaoh that he had seen and spoken with God of course they would not believe him.
- So God shows him the signs and wonders he would do to authenticate his testimony.



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# The Excuses of Moses

- Excuse #4 – I do not speak well.
- God's remedy for poor speech is that He would tell him exactly what to say.
- Moses stalled some more and God decided to send Aaron with him as his spokesman.

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# The Excuses of Moses

- So in the end what do we have?
- We have an unwilling servant – all of the excuses were just that and no more. Bottom line – Moses did not want to go.
- The question for us – how much like Moses are we when the Spirit of God prompts us to witness?

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# God Disciplines Moses

- Ex 4:24 At a lodging place on the way, the Lord met [Moses] and was about to kill him. 25 But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son's foreskin and touched [Moses'] feet with it. "Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me," she said. 26 So the Lord let him alone. (At that time she said "bridegroom of blood," referring to circumcision.)  
NIV

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# God Disciplines Moses

- If Moses was going to be the deliverer of Israel and their spiritual leader, then he had better perform the sign of the covenant in his own family.
- God strikes Moses with a sickness of some sort – a very serious sickness because he was near death.
- Zipporah, who had probably resisted having her son circumcised actually performed the surgery herself and Moses recovered.

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# God Disciplines Moses

- This raises an interesting question – does God still discipline in this manner today?
- 1 Cor 11:30 That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died. NLT
- I believe the answer is yes – sobering, isn't it?

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# I Am Who I Am

- This is one of the coolest things God has to say in the Bible –
- Ex 3:13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" 14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" NIV

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# I Am Who I Am

- John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd." NIV
- John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world." NIV
- John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches." NIV
- John 6:48 "I am the bread of life." NIV

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# I Am Who I Am

- Could it be that part of what the phrase “I am” means is that we have a blank check to write on the bank of Jesus?
- Whatever legitimate needs we have God has answered in Christ.
- Without sounding too trite – Jesus is the answer, now what’s the question?



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Questions / Comments