

## “CALLING AND THE PAST”

Ex 3:10-11

*Man: I know that I am called. I've been fighting it. Moses' calling: Have to face the issue of the past.*

### I. PEOPLE WITH A PAST

A. We bring our past into our calling: *Ex 3:4 Moses, Moses...*

1. At whatever point we receive or recognize God calling – we already have a history; Often with negatives
  - a. *Mark of Cain - long after the event is over, a mark remains*
2. These negatives become interwoven with our purpose – we can't separate them

B. Moses' past is common for many men

1. **Violation by an authority figure:** *Ex 2:15 when Pharaoh heard this, he sought to kill Moses...*
  - a. The one who is supposed to help/protect/lift you up instead becomes the one who brings harm
    1. Much more painful than if a stranger does you wrong
2. **Rejection by people:** *Ex 2:14 he said, who made you a prince and a judge over us?*
  - a. *I see no value in you* b. *You are not wanted* c. *You have no future*
    1. *David: His father saw no value in him/rejected by his brothers*
3. **Personal failure:** *Ex 2:12 So he looked around, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.*
  - a. *A stupid decision* b. *A sinful decision* c. *A failed attempt at ministry!*

### II. PRODUCTS OF YOUR PAST

A. The real damage of the past is that it affects our viewpoint: We see things differently/incorrectly

1. **We see ourselves incorrectly:** *Ex 3:11 who am I, that I should go...?*
  - a. Rejection produces inadequacy: The message rejection gives is worthlessness/stupidity
    1. I don't have what it takes: *Ex 4:10 I am not eloquent/I can't speak...*
      - a. *Gideon: Less than the least* b. *Num 13: we are not able to go up...*
2. **We see God incorrectly:**
  - a. At best: We fail to see God in proportion – or at all
    1. *What we are/what we've done in the past blocks God out; All we see is ourselves/weakness/failure*
  - b. At worst: We mistrust God; God's going to let me down (like Dad) or deliberately try to hurt me
    1. *COI: Going to kill us!* 2. *I'm not going to eat beans the rest of my life!*
3. **We see other people incorrectly:** When identity is damaged, we tend to make ego the center of life
  - a. All of life revolves around proving or protecting our egos

B. This plays out in our decisions

1. **We hide from the will of God:** Moses in the desert b/c he ran away – he was hiding!
  - a. Hide from calling/responsibility/leadership/blessing
    1. *1 Sam 10:21-22 Finally Saul son of Kish was chosen. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found. So they inquired further of the LORD, "Has the man come here yet?" And the LORD said, "Yes, he has hidden himself among the baggage."*
  - b. Hiding in the stuff/baggage: Sticking with what is safe/familiar
    1. *Afraid to step out/try anything new (disciples stayed in boat while Peter walked on water!)*
2. **We refuse to do the will of God:**
  - a. *Jonah 1:3 But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.*
    1. Calling involves practical decisions: We refuse to do them/take those steps

### III. POWER FOR YOUR PAST

A. God's answer for your past is an encounter with God

1. God wanted to meet with Moses: That meeting could change His whole life and future/destiny!
  - a. The supernatural power of God is stronger than any past experience
2. But you have to be willing to meet with God: *Ex 3:4 when the Lord saw he turned aside to look...*
  - a. Bring the past to the only one who can fix it/heal it

B. God's answer for your past is surrender: *Ex 3:5 take off your shoes, for the ground you're on is holy ground*

1. **The surrender of trust:** No shoes made vulnerable – but God will take care of me/He loves me!
  - a. *Note: If you don't take off your shoes – you don't move on!*
2. **The surrender of our egos:** Moses was a former military man/in control
  - a. *I'll do it – and leave the outcome to God*
3. **The surrender of our obedience:** Go to Egypt!
  - a. Calling always involves practical steps