

G:love 5

Focused Living Ministries

Exodus 3-4



True insurance accident excuses:

- An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my truck, and vanished.
- I had been driving my car for 40 years when I fell asleep at the wheel.
- I turned left, glanced at my mother-in-law, and headed over the cliff.
- The pedestrian had no idea which direction to go, so I ran over him.
- A little guy in a small car with a big mouth really caused the accident.

What excuses do men make when God asks them to **be, do** or **change** something in their lives? As a 'glove' what are your favorite excuses?

EXCUSE= 'ex' (from) + 'causa' (cause). To get away from a cause, call, purpose or opportunity for which you are not interested in or committed to because the cost is too high. An excuse is rationalized disobedience wrapped in blame. Excuses are the nails that hold together a life of failure. What excuse have you recently used to get away from a God-sized assignment to which He has called you?

(3:7-10) Put yourself in Moses' sandals. What excuses would you make if, after 40 years, God interrupted your comfortable lifestyle as a lowly shepherd and family man who is making a decent living for his family to risk it all by asking you to obey the voice of a burning bush to man up and, as a wanted murderer, lead 2.5 million unarmed brick making slaves 600 miles across a searing hot rocky desert with no food, water, resources, trained leadership or infrastructure to an unknown land with insurmountable military might while following a cloud by day and fire by night? (380 box cars food, 1100 tank cars water 10 mile train daily. 10x10 mi. camp each night. 3 days at 20 abreast all to pass)

EXCUSE #1 I'M _____! **(3:11-12)**

FOCUS ON SELF. "Who am I?" Fearful because I don't have the adequate resources, credentials, power, position, training or experience to pull it off. God's answer: "*I will give you a sign*" ('owth' = brand skin/tattoo). I will be closer to you than your skin. It's not about what you do, it's about Who you know. God will never ask you to do something you can do by yourself! I will always ask of you the impossible so you can do it together as Father and son. God get's the glory; others get the Gospel; you get the growth. Where do you feel inadequate?

EXCUSE #2 I'M _____! **(3:13-16)**

FOCUS ON CREDENTIALS. I don't have all the answers; feel unprepared; fear the unknown; afraid of being found out and rejected when they see my weakness! God's answer: "*I Am Who I Am!*" (To be, to be) Whatever you need for Me **TO BE, I AM** already that to you! You may not have all the answers, but you will have all of Me. Christ and you are a majority anywhere you go. Where do you feel most insecure? What aspect of God's character do you most need God to be?

EXCUSE #3 I'M _____! **(4:1-9)**

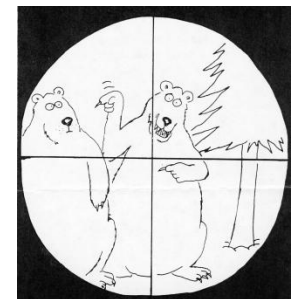
FOCUS ON INABILITIES. I don't have skills/training. I must 1st clean up my act. They will question my spiritual leadership? I'm just a stinky ol' leather skinned Bedouin shepherd hiding in the desert to cover up my pride, murder and failures. **STAFF**= weakness, failure, foolishness. If God can turn a snake into a stick used to part the Red Sea, think what He could do through you! **LEPROUS HAND**= sin. If God can transform/clean your old, leathery hand, think how He could restore your calloused, sinful heart. **WATER/BLOOD**= death. If God can change the chemical make up of the world's longest river, He can certainly change Pharaoh's resistant heart. How big is your God? How have you put God in a box? Where do you feel most inferior?

EXCUSE #4 I'M _____! **(4:10-15)**

Score= Moses 0 God 3. **FOCUS ON SPEECH/EDUCATION.** I won't have all words and I'm stupid (Acts 7:22, I Cor 2:1-5; Jer 1:4-10). I will be with your mouth after you have been with Me. Simply tell others exactly what I have taught you (John 5:19-20; Mark 5:19-20).

TAG TEAM As a 'glove' which excuse have you been using most lately? What encouragement/challenge/principle grabbed you? Why?

ASSIGNMENT Write out a prayer of confession asking the Lord to forgive your excuses and replace them with true excitement!



Farside by Gary Larson