



## Who Am I?

Adapted from “4 Excuses of Moses” series by Dennis Marquardt

Some days we just do not want to do what we are supposed to do. We grow up making all sorts of excuses as to why we did not mow the yard, wash the clothes, do our homework, empty the trash, and a plethora of other things. It is hard for us to just own the reason we do not want to do something, so we try to convince others we cannot do it by using elaborate excuses.

The majority of Americans have called in sick at least once in their lives. Most of the time, it's to do something as simple as sleep in, or run errands. Some people however, have not learned the “skill” of making up a believable excuse.

CareerBuilder has released their study on sick days, which included everything from the time of the year most people fake sick, to common ways people are busted for calling in. Also, part of the study (and the best part), were some of the most bizarre excuses that employees had given when trying to call in. According to CareerBuilder's Report, when asked to share the most memorable excuses for workplace absences they've heard, employers reported the following real-life examples:

- Employee claimed his grandmother poisoned him with ham.
- Employee was stuck under the bed.
- Employee broke his arm reaching to grab a falling sandwich.
- Employee said the universe was telling him to take a day off.
- Employee's wife found out he was cheating. He had to spend the day retrieving his belongings from the dumpster.

And that's just SOME of the most ridiculous excuses. Number 5 on the list is the only one that seems somewhat believable, the rest are just absurd.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Naomi Lynn, “Faking Sick: Some of the Most Ridiculous Excuses Employees Have Given,” Lite 98.7, October 20, 2015, <http://lite987.com/faking-sick-some-of-the-most-ridiculous-excuses-employees-have-given/>, (accessed August 2, 2017).

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In Exodus chapters 3 and 4, God asked Moses to lead His People out of slavery from Egypt. Time after time, Moses gave an excuse for not doing what God had asked of him. In this lesson, we will examine some of Moses' excuses and see how we can learn from them to help us do the things God has asked of us.

## COURAGE

**C1:** Read and answer or discuss the following questions

**Exodus 3:1–6 (ESV)** Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

- What do you feel God is calling you to do?
- List your current life experiences. What is the correlation between your life experiences and what God has been preparing you to do?
- How can you use your current life situation to reach others?
- What has held you back from investigating the things of God you see in your life?
- What would your reaction be if an angel of the Lord appeared to you at your work place with some instructions to go and do something?
- What do you need to extract from your life that currently is keeping you from entering God's presence?

- Facing the distractions of life, how do you find the courage to remain strong in Him?
  
- What keeps you in the world rather than in His world?

**C2:** Read and answer or discuss the following questions.

**Exodus 3:7–10 (ESV)** Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

- As difficulties arise, do you feel that God is listening to the cries of His men? In what manner?
  
- Has there been a time that you cried out to God and He answered? If so, describe the circumstances.

**C3:** Read and answer or discuss the following questions

**Exodus 3:10–12 (ESV)** Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

- When God calls you to do His will, what is your answer?
- Do you ever give an excuse like Moses did, “who am I that you would send me”?
- In the verses above, the ladies carried their prize possessions on their back. What would you carry on yours?
- Has there been a time in your life when your personal struggles got in the way of God’s plan?
- Has there been a time in your life when you felt as if God was dead?
- Has there a time God asked you to do something and you felt like Moses, and answered “Who am I?”
- After reading these verses, do you believe that God is with you as well?
- Do you believe that God is sending you, not alone, but that He is right there with you?

## STRENGTH

**S1:** Read and answer or discuss the following questions.

### **Exodus 3:1–6 (ESV)**

- What gifts and talents have you been blessed with that can be used in what God is calling you to?
- Do you rely on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to accomplish what God is calling you to?
- What is holding you back from investigating the things of the Lord in your life?
- How does the empowerment of the Holy Spirit give you strength in answering who you are in Christ?
- When God has called you to step out in faith, what excuses do you use?
- How does pride keep you from being used by God?

**S2:** Read and answer or discuss the following questions.

### **Exodus 3:7–10 (ESV)**

- Has there been a time in your life when you were struggling and found God heard your cries?

- On whose strength do you rely when facing battles, yours or Gods?
- Facing a disaster, what would you want your family to know is important to you?
- Where do you find the strength needed to carry your prized possession on your back?
- Is there something you are carrying that you need to let go of?
- How do you find the strength to finish the plan that God has secured for you?

**S3:** Read and answer or discuss the following questions.

**Exodus 3:10–12 (ESV)**

- How do you find strength in God, when you feel as if He is dead, or not hearing your cries for help?
- Do you doubt your ability to start the plan God has called you to?
- Have you given all your strength to allow God to use you?
- The second part of verse 12 speaks of a sign that God gave Moses. What signs has God given you on your journey to fulfill His plan for your life?

- Have you ever worshipped God at the mountain of your life? If so, what was that mountain?

## ENDURANCE

**E1:** Read and answer or discuss the following questions.

### **Exodus 3:1–6 (ESV)**

- What are you focusing on, the storm or the victory?
- Are you aware that God is preparing you even today to accomplish His will?
- What qualifies you to be called by God for His purpose?
- How can you focus on being a servant of God?
- What does taking off your sandals mean to you in what God has called you to?

**E2:** Read and answer or discuss the following questions.

### **Exodus 3:7–10 (ESV)**

- How can you focus on God during the battles of life?
- Do you reach out to other men for their godly wisdom during trials and temptations? Why or why not?

- Where is your focus when you are facing disastrous situations in your life, marriage, family, workplace, and community?
- What helps you to focus on God rather than make excuses as you step into God's plan?
- Do you believe that God's plan is secure? How does faith enter the picture?
- What tools do you need to focus on as God calls you to walk the path of being a godly man?

**E3:** Read and answer or discuss the following questions.

**Exodus 3:10–12 (ESV)**

- Has there been a time in your life when your focus has been more on yourself than God?
- How do you focus on the things of God rather than the things of man?
- What current excuse are you using to keep from fulfilling God's plan in your life?
- What do you need to focus on as you go about fulfilling God's plan for your life?

- What encouragement do you take from these verses regarding fulfilling God's plan for your life?