

4

Don't Compromise Your Call

Encountering God

Text: Exodus 4:18-31

Key Verses: Exodus 4:22,31

Next Week: Exodus 5

EXODUS

Finding Freedom

OPEN

Over the last three weeks in our Encountering God through Exodus series we have learned that not only does God see us but wants us to see Him and know Him. Knowing who God is is foundational for doing life with God. Once God makes Himself known to Moses He calls him to participate in God's mission to **save God's people so they can be His people again**. In this way Exodus foreshadows the entire story of Scripture where God rescues people from sin by sending a Saviour, Jesus, so they can be His people again.

What an incredible privilege that Moses would be called by God to participate in this unfolding story of redemption. Although God's call is clear, Moses is slow to answer and when he does he finds that he has compromised the call. This week's text is a challenging reminder of the holiness of God. God's holiness requires *faithfulness*, is developed in our lives as a *process* which *takes time* as we learn to follow God's call on our lives.

REFLECT

- Read Exodus 18-23. What strikes you about how Moses asks Jethro permission to return to Egypt? Read again Exodus 3:7-10. What details does Moses leave out when he tells his father-in-law the plan?
 - Moses' hesitation to be fully honest about facing Pharaoh and freeing his people seems to flow from his self doubt when God called him. How has self doubt been a barrier to you following God?
- In Exodus 4:22 we see God call Israel His firstborn son. What does this teach you about: (1) How God views His people? (2) How God is motivated to come rescue His people? (3) The ultimate purpose for the freedom God wants for His people (see 4:23)?

DISCUSS

- Read Exodus 4:24-26.
 - What questions does this passage bring up for you? Why did God want to kill Moses immediately after He called Moses?
 - Ultimately this section teaches us about the holiness of God and the seriousness of our obedience to Him. What is the difference between faith and faithfulness?

It was not enough for Moses to simply know about circumcision (see Genesis 17) God required him to obey and be faithful.

- Divide into 3 smaller groups each group reading one passage: Matthew 15:8-9, Matthew 23:1-3, Romans 2:13.
 - What does your passage teach you about the difference between faith (knowing) and faithfulness (doing)?
 - How can you apply faithfulness to God more in your life?
- Moses' calling was less about doing and more about becoming who God had created him to be; it was about relationship. Read this quote by Os Guinness: **"Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are but also of becoming what we are not yet but are called by God to be."**
- What do you think of this quote? There seems to be a conundrum to calling, where God often calls us into places that we are not yet ready for. How have you seen this play out in your life? Have you ever been slow to obey God's call because you felt you were *not yet* ready?

APPLY/PRAY

- Where in your life do you need to move from simple faith to faithfulness? Pray over that for each other.
- What is the next step, thing, or place you feel God is calling you to? Encourage each other and pray for God's clarity and courage to follow where He leads.
- Moses had to wait in the desert to receive God's calling. Pray for each other that God would use the waiting in your life to shape your heart. What things do you need to let go of so you can hear from God in the waiting? Pray for that.