

# There's No Excuse!

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A true story:

A man was arrested in a public park because of a domestic dispute with his wife. She was in the middle of a lake in the park. He was on the bank throwing rocks at her. When questioned by police he said, "I thought she was drowning, so I was throwing rocks at her to drive her back to shore."

All of us have heard excuses just as silly as this. Most of us have even made excuses like this. We have probably even thrown them at God to explain why we are not serving him as he expects.

An incident from the life of Moses will help us learn how ineffective our excuses are before God. The incident is God's commission of Moses at the burning bush on Mount Horeb, recorded in Exodus 3-4. Look at each of Moses' excuses and how God answered each one.

**"Who am I?" (3:11).** Moses assumed he had to be someone important to be God's spokesman. That was not true. God said, "I will be with you" (v 12). If we are on God's side, what is there to fear (Psalm 118:6; Romans 8:31)?

**"Who are you?" (13: 13).** Good question, poor excuse. When we worry about who we are, we forget who God is. God said, "I AM" (v 14ff). The only way to convince others of their need for God is to show them who God is and how great he is. If that won't work, nothing will.

**"What if they won't listen?" (4:1).** People have the right to demand proof, but that should not discourage us. The God we serve and present to others has ample credentials. In fact, the Bible was written to provide all the evidence we need (John 20:30-31). Our task is to present that evidence.

**"But I can't speak!" (4:10).** Moses mistook eloquence for effectiveness. People who are looking for God's truth will not be swayed by eloquence, nor hindered by crudeness. God said, "I will be your mouth" (v 12). If we will learn God's word and rehearse it to others, it will do the convicting because of the Spirit who revealed it (John 16:8-10).

**"Please, send someone else!" (4:13).** Moses stubbornness was no greater than God's patience. Moses must still fulfill his commission, but God would provide help. God sent Aaron with Moses and said, "I will be with your mouth and his mouth" (v 15). When God commands, he also equips (1 Peter 4:11).

An excuse has been defined as the skin of a reason stuffed with a lie. Let's make sure we don't mistake our own excuses for reasons and thus be guilty of lying to God. For that, there is no excuse!