Character Study: Moses
Part 3 – The Excuses of Moses
Exodus 3:11-4:17

What's happening?

● Moses received his call from God to deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt, but he quickly came up with numerous excuses as to why he felt inadequate. Note these excuses and how God answered each of them:

➤ First excuse: "<u>Who am I</u> that I should go…" (*3:11*)
God's answer: "I will <u>be</u> <u>with</u> <u>you</u>." (*3:12*)

➤ Second excuse: When "they ask me, 'What is his <u>name</u>?' what shall I say to them?" (*3:13*)
God's answer: "Say this to the people of Israel, '<u>I AM</u> has sent me to you.'" (*3:14*)

➤ Third excuse: "They will not <u>believe</u> me." (*4:1*)
God's answer: There will be <u>signs</u> (rod and leprosy) so that "they may believe that the Lord…has appeared to you." (*4:2-9*)

➤ Fourth excuse: "I am not <u>eloquent</u>." (*4:10*)
God's answer: "Who has made man's <u>mouth</u>…go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." (*4:11-12*)

● Even after God responded to each of Moses' excuses, Moses was still reluctant to go. God became <u>angry</u> with Moses, most likely because Moses was speaking more out of <u>disobedience</u> than <u>fear</u>. God said He would allow <u>Aaron</u> (Moses' brother) to be the spokesman, but God would still work through Moses. (*4:13-17*)

What's God doing?

> God was showing that no matter how many excuses Moses could come up with, there was no valid reason to <u>abandon</u> what God had called him to do. Everything Moses <u>needed</u>, God would <u>provide</u>.

What's to learn?

→ When God gives you a task, know that He will <u>empower</u> you to do it. Any fear or sense of inadequacy should just be a reminder of our need to rely on God. <u>Trusting</u> God is the first step in being used by God!

→ We cannot make excuses to avoid listening to God. Not doing what God wants us to do is always <u>disobedience</u>, no matter how great our excuses seem to be. Are there excuses you are using to avoid doing what you know God wants you to do? Abandon the excuses; do not abandon the call!