MESSAGE NOTES

Purpose > Self – Part 6 of 6

“Called And Empowered For Ministry”

Exodus 3:1-4:17

*One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God.****2****There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn’t burn up.****3****“This is amazing,” Moses said to himself. “Why isn’t that bush burning up? I must go see it.”* ***4****When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, “Moses! Moses!” “Here I am!” Moses replied.* ***5****“Do not come any closer,” the Lord warned. “Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground.****6****I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.****7****Then the Lord told him, “I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering.****8****So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.****9****Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them.****10****Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.”* Exodus 3:1-10

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Introduction: During this message series, we are talking about how God wants us to make a difference in our church family and the world in which we live. He has shaped us for a ministry in the church and a mission in the world.

My God-given S.H.A.P.E. for Ministry

S – Spiritual Gifts

**H –** Heart

**A –** Abilities

**P –** Personality

**E –** Experiences

Today we are concluding our seriesby looking at how God empowers us to do the ministry he has called and S.H.A.P.E.d us to do.

# The Call of God in Moses’ Life – Exodus 3:1-10 – Lessons for our life from the call of Moses

When God gets your attention – pay attention

You are God’s answer as an extraordinary God uses ordinary people

# The Excuses Moses Gives and God’s Response

**Excuse # 1: I’m a nobody. I have nothing to offer.**

*But Moses protested to God, “Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?”* Exodus 3:11

**God’s response:** **I know so I will go with you.**

*God answered, “I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain.”* Exodus 3:12

**Excuse # 2: I don’t know what to say. I don’t know where to start.**

*“If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?”* Exodus 3:13

**God’s Response: I will tell you what to say and where to start.**

*God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent you.’”*

Exodus 3:14

**Excuse # 3: What if they don’t believe me? OR What if it doesn’t work?**

*But Moses protested again, “What if they won’t believe me or listen to me? What if they say, ‘The Lord never appeared to you’?”* Exodus 4:1

**God’s Response:** **It’s not your job. The results are up to me.** See Exodus 4:2-9

**Excuse # 4: I’m not capable. I’m not good enough.**

*But Moses pleaded with the Lord, “O Lord, I’m not very good with words. I never have been, and I’m not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.”*  Exodus 4:10

**God’s Response: Who made you? I have created and equipped you for what I want you to do.**

***11****Then the Lord asked Moses, “Who makes a person’s mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the Lord?* ***12****Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.”* Exodus 4:11-12

**Excuse # 5: Send someone else.**

***13****But Moses again pleaded, “Lord, please! Send anyone else.”*  Exodus 4:13

**God’s Response: His** **anger burned against Moses because when he speaks, there really are no excuses.**

See Exodus 4:14-17