

# ExtraORDINARY #1 – Moses

## Sermon by Todd Lester

September 11, 2016

Exodus 3:7, 10 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...Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

A mission that is truly from God is: P \_\_\_\_\_, P \_\_\_\_\_ & P \_\_\_\_\_

### FIVE FEARS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE

**FEAR 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 3:11, Exodus 3:12

**FEAR 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 3:13, Exodus 3:14

God says "I Am That I Am" which means that He is:

1. R \_\_\_\_\_ 2. E \_\_\_\_\_ 3. T \_\_\_\_\_ 4. U \_\_\_\_\_

**FEAR 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 4:1, Proverbs 29:25, Exodus 4:2

Moses laid down the staff (a symbol of i \_\_\_\_\_, i \_\_\_\_\_, i \_\_\_\_\_)

**FEAR 4:** \_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 4:10, Exodus 4:11-12, Matthew 10:19-20

**FEAR 5:** \_\_\_\_\_

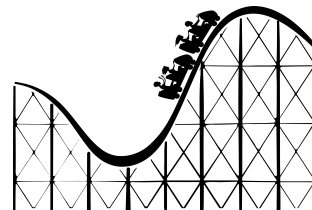
Exodus 4:13, Exodus 4:14, Ezekiel 33:8, Jeremiah 42:3, 2 Timothy 1:7

First steps:

1. S \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Pray for w \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Asked to be filled with His Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_

# My Summer Vacation

Choose one (or more) of the pictures below to help you describe how your summer went. Share with the group why you made that choice.



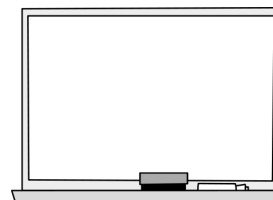
**Rollercoaster**  
Lots of ups and downs, but what a ride!



**Oasis**  
Peace and quiet, rest and relaxation



**Action Movie**  
Fast paced, high adventure.



**Blank Slate**  
Vacation? What vacation?



**Comedy of Errors**  
How could so many things go wrong?



**Soap Opera**  
Emotions ran high but lots of love was shared.



**Heavy schedule**  
So much to do with so little time.



**Fairy Tale**  
Battle between good and evil but we lived happily ever after.

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## Icebreaker/Introduction

The 'My Summer Vacation' activity is meant to be a fun way to help people talk a bit about their summer. Give time for participants to select one (or more) ideas and then take turns sharing.

Ask if there was anything from this week's message that stood out – either a point that was made which really resonated with them, or perhaps a question or difficulty that came up for them.

Can you recall some of the key words of different religions which Todd shared? (strive, do = religions that seek God's favour; sit, wait, ponder = passive religions; done, faith, trust, love = Christianity) Do these help you see some important differences about religions? Todd gave a quick overview of Moses' life story. What stands out to you most about Moses? What questions come to mind about his story?

Todd made the (provocative) statement that our faith is about "sending people out, but many people do nothing for Jesus outside of the four walls of the church." Do you agree with this?

Read [Exodus 3:7-10](#)

Discuss Todd's points that A mission that is truly from God is: Passionate, Personal & Practical

Can you give an example of a time in your life when you felt God calling you to a particular mission (big or small) that fits with these three criteria? (consider Todd's example from the message about talking to someone about coming to the corn roast)

## **FIVE FEARS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE**

### **FEAR 1: INADEQUACY**

**Focuses on [Exodus 3:11](#), [Exodus 3:12](#)**

Todd said that typically when God has something for us to do it seems bigger than what we think we can do (and in fact that this might be an indication that we're in the right place). Have you had an experienced like this which you can share with the group?

How can we balance the above idea (about inadequacy) with the reality that God has gifted each of us and He wants us to use these gifts for His kingdom?

How do Paul's words in [2 Corinthians 12:9-10](#) fit in with this point about inadequacy?

How is [Exodus 3:12](#) a good answer to Moses fear?

### **FEAR 2: EMBARRASSMENT**

**Focuses on [Exodus 3:13](#), [Exodus 3:14](#)**

Why do you think Todd used the subtitle 'Embarrassment' in this section?

God says "I Am That I Am" which means that He is: 1. Real 2. Eternal 3. True 4. Unchanging

In what ways is God's response to this question by Moses a good answer?

Todd pointed out that the more you know God, then the less you'll be afraid? Would you agree with this idea? Why does it work that way? (will life be easier?)

### **FEAR 3: REJECTION**

**Focuses on [Exodus 4:1](#), [Proverbs 29:25](#), [Exodus 4:2](#)**

What was God's answer to this fear? ("throw down your staff") This is a very different kind of answer. Discuss Todd's explanation that if we give God what we have then He will make it come alive and will do things we've never imagined.

Moses laid down the staff (a symbol of identity income influence)

Todd asked the question "What is in your hand?" How can we submit our identity, income and influence for God to use?

Can you think of an example when someone (maybe you?) laid down one (or all) of these things and saw God move in unexpected ways?

### **FEAR 4: COMPETENCE**

**Focuses on [Exodus 4:10](#), [Exodus 4:11-12](#), [Matthew 10:19-20](#)**

Do you think this fear should be called Competence, or Incompetence?

How is this fear different from #1 (Inadequacy)? [inadequacy is a more general or overall feeling, where (in)competence is perhaps referring to a specific skill]

Moses is concerned about an inability to speak well, which is a common fear, but what are some other specific ways in which people often feel incompetent?

We can all think of times when we've said the wrong thing (share if you want/have time) but can you recall a time when you know you said just the right thing that was needed in a situation?

### **FEAR 5: COMMITMENT**

**Focuses on [Exodus 4:13](#), [Exodus 4:14](#), [Ezekiel 33:8](#), [Jeremiah 42:3](#), [2 Timothy 1:7](#)**

Do you think Moses' excuses/fears were reasonable? (reflect on the circumstances – away 40 years, says he saw God in a burning bush, God told him to help the Israelites escape, God was promising to do extraordinary things and the Israelites were a 'tough crowd')

Todd said that a lack of commitment really means a lack of caring. (and selfishness). Do you agree?

Todd noted that every one of Moses' questions begins with a 'but' and that we all have a lot of 'buts' (big or small;)). He asked us the question "What big but is keeping you from serving God?"

Discuss Todd's statement that "God has a promised land, a mission for your life, but He will never force it on you."

Read [Exodus 4:14-16](#) to see how God addressed at least one of Moses' fears by using his brother Aaron to speak. God still accomplished His purposes (Exodus 4:29-31) but Moses missed out on some of the privilege of participating fully.

First steps:

1. Surrender 2. Pray for wisdom 3. Asked to be filled with His Spirit of love

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A mission that is truly from God is: Passionate Personal & Practical

### **FIVE FEARS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE**

#### **FEAR 1: INADEQUACY**

Exodus 3:11 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 3:12 God answered, “I will be with you.”

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

#### **FEAR 2: EMBARRASSMENT**

Exodus 3:13 But Moses protested, “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 3:14 God replied to Moses, “I Am Who I Am. Say this to the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.”

God says “I Am That I Am” which means that He is:

1. Real
2. Eternal
3. True
4. Unchanging

#### **FEAR 3: REJECTION**

Exodus 4:1 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?’”

Proverbs 29:25 Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety.

Exodus 4:2 Then the Lord asked him, “What is that in your hand?” “A shepherd’s staff,” Moses replied.

Moses laid down the staff (a symbol of identity income influence)

#### **FEAR 4: COMPETENCE**

Exodus 4:10 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 4:11-12 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? Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.”

Matthew 10:19-20 When you are arrested, don’t worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time. For it is not you who will be speaking—it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

#### **FEAR 5: COMMITMENT**

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

Exodus 4:14 Then the Lord became angry with Moses.

Ezekiel 33:8 If I announce that some wicked people are sure to die and you fail to tell them to change their ways, then they will die in their sins, and I will hold you responsible for their deaths.

Jeremiah 42:3 Pray that the Lord your God will show us what to do and where to go.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

Exodus 4:14-16 Then the Lord became angry with Moses. “All right,” he said.

“What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he speaks well. And look! He is on his way to meet you now. He will be delighted to see you. Talk to him, and put the words in his mouth. I will be with both of you as you speak, and I will instruct you both in what to do. Aaron will be your spokesman to the people. He will be your mouthpiece, and you will stand in the place of God for him, telling him what to say.

Exodus 4:29-31 Then Moses and Aaron returned to Egypt and called all the elders of Israel together. Aaron told them everything the Lord had told Moses, and Moses performed the miraculous signs as they watched. Then the people of Israel were convinced that the Lord had sent Moses and Aaron. When they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

First steps:

1. Surrender
2. Pray for wisdom
3. Asked to be filled with His Spirit of love