

September 15, 2019

Sermon: How Can God Use Me?

Text: Exodus 3-4

Discussion Questions:

We have a creative God, who works in many different ways through many different people!

One of the very best ways to illustrate this is to think about our own lives. There is no doubt about the fact that God has used diverse (and unexpected!) people to shape you into the person you are today. Take a minute or two, and make a “Top Five” list. These are people that God has used in your life in a significant way. Don’t overthink it (I’m sure there are way more than five people if you spent the day thinking about it)—just jot down the first five people that come to mind...and a few reasons as to why.

- If you’re in a group, go around the circle and share your list. If there’s quite a few of you, just pick one or two. If you’re in a smaller group, go ahead and share all five. And if you’re using this study guide personally, a great idea might be to jot down an email—or even better a hand-written note!—to let these people know that God has used them to make a significant difference in your life.

Before moving on, let’s also take a few minutes to analyze what you’ve written down. There’s a good chance parents or family members made your list. This certainly stands to reason, as these are the people closest to you, and love you the most. But I’m sure there are other people as well—teachers, pastors, co-workers, etc.

- What is it ABOUT these people that God used?
- How important was it that these people genuinely cared about you, believed in you, and took the extra time to give of themselves to you?
- Would you say that any of these people were a bit “hard on you”—in other words, they expected just a little more out of you because they believed you were capable of more than even you thought was possible?
- How much does availability play into this? Did any of these people MAKE your list simply because they took the time to be available to you at a time in your life when you needed it the most?
- Who on your list would you consider to be the most unexpected—perhaps even surprising you right now that they even came to your mind?

Examination:

- Read **Exodus 3:1-12**:
 - How old was Moses when this account took place (see Exodus 7:7)?
 - How shocked do you think Moses was by the fact that God was even aware of him, and still had a plan for him at his age?
 - According to verse 1, where was Moses and what was he doing?
 - Make a list of all of the places on earth that could be considered more remote than “the far side of the wilderness.”
 - How “important” do you think shepherds were in those days? How high up the social ladder do you suppose they were?

- Given his age (80), his location (far side of the wilderness), and his job (shepherd)—is it any wonder Moses was shocked to be hearing from God? How easy do you think it was for Moses to think that God had forgotten him? Do you ever feel that way...wondering if God is really paying attention to you?
 - We learn from the preceding chapter (Exodus 2) that Moses murdered another man in anger, was being pursued by Pharaoh, and was basically a fugitive on the run. Do you think Moses doubted, given his mistakes and failures, that God could ever use him? Do you ever question whether God could use you—given whatever mistakes you’ve made in your past?
 - According to verse 11, what is the first objection/excuse that Moses gives God as to why he believes God has the wrong guy?
- Read **Exodus 3:12-22**:
 - How do you read verse 13? Is Moses trying to make another excuse as to why he shouldn’t go back to Egypt—or would you consider this just a good question?
 - This is the first time in Scripture (following approx. 4,500 years of Biblical history from Adam down to Moses) that Jehovah God actually gives His NAME! Why do you think God waited until now to reveal His name? Do you think Moses was surprised that God revealed His name? What comes to your mind as you consider God’s name?
 - Why do you think God provided such incredible detail regarding what would happen when Moses assembled the elders of Israel and laid out the plan?
 - Read **Exodus 4:1-17**:
 - According to Exodus 4:1, what’s the next excuse/objection that Moses gives to God?
 - What can we learn from the fact that God simply used what was already in Moses’ hand (a shepherd’s staff) to reveal Himself to others? When we doubt whether God can actually use us, do you think He might simply ask us: “What’s that in your hand?”
 - Take that one step further. What IS “in your hand” that God can use to bless others? What are you good at? What job do you already have? What skill do you possess that God can use? What are your passions? Are you willing to “throw these things down” (make them available to God) so that God can “pick them up” and use them for His glory?
 - Moses makes his next excuse in verse 10. What is it? What’s God’s answer?
 - Finally, Moses runs out of excuses in verse 13. He cuts to the chase and gives God his bottom line. What is it?
 - Why do you think God gets upset with Moses in verse 14?
 - Do you think it brought Moses comfort in knowing that his brother Aaron was going to be going along with him and helping him? How much do you depend on the help of others to accomplish what God is calling you to do?

Application:

When thinking about discipleship, we all wonder from time to time: “How can God use me?” Do you believe that your age, or your location, your occupation, or your past disqualify you for service? The answer is: NO! In the same way that God has used “ordinary” people to impact YOUR life, He wants to use YOU to impact other people’s lives! Be open to the many ways that God can and will work through you!