

“Why me.....why me? A shepherd. A poor shepherd. Tending sheep owned by someone else. I have one pair of sandals, a robe and a walking staff. Nothing. I have nothing. Why would God want me? Want me?

The moment I ask the question, my life changes completely. Why me? Honest question. Honest question. And I cannot, for the life of me, think of an answer...not even a lame one. There is simply no reason, no reason. And if I knew that someday far into the future at the end of my life I would be— called “God’s Servant” by God himself, well, I wouldn’t believe it.

I see a bush burning in the desert, but it doesn’t burn up. It doesn’t burn up. It strikes me as so odd that I walk right over to check it out. “Moses, Moses!” It calls out my name. I keep walking.

The bush keeps talking, “Don’t come any closer. Take off your sandals for you are on holy ground.” It’s not the bush talking, I realize, it’s God, it’s God. I hide my face, I’m—I’m— afraid to look at God.

God explains that he is sending me to lead the Israelites out of their captivity, out of Egypt. I am to go to the leaders of the Israelites and explain to them that God remembers them...remembers them and is ready to rescue them from slavery. Why is God telling me, me?

I protest. For a number of...of reasons I can’t quite remember because a— snake...God turns my walking staff into a snake, a snake.

For the first time, the thought enters my mind, “I’m God’s servant.” I say “Pardon your servant, Lord”<sup>1</sup> But then I snap back to reality and my meager belongings, and I see a loser... a loser....who can’t even talk without repeating himself

“Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else. Someone else, someone else, someone else.”<sup>2</sup>

My words echo in the desert. Ridiculing my speaking condition.<sup>3</sup> But— something shifts, inside. It’s so simple. If I truly am the servant of the Lord, as I just claimed, I need only do what servants do. Obey. It’s just so simple I will obey whatever he asks. If he really is my Lord, I will trust him no matter what. Trust him, trust him completely. Why me? My life changes. My very speaking pattern changes as God teaches me what to say and how to say it.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Exodus 4:10

<sup>2</sup> Exodus 4:13

<sup>3</sup> Exodus 4 :10

<sup>4</sup> Exodus 4:12

God sees me differently than I see myself. This hits me like a desert dust storm. I see an old, 80 years old. A shepherd. No money, no influence, no special talents. No real communication with my biological family. No existing ties to my adopted family in Egypt, where I am considered to be an escaped murderer.

God sees me as trained, hardened by the desert after 40 years, able to live in challenging circumstances. A shepherd, able to lead what doesn't want to be led.

He sees me as someone who has 40 years of experience in the Egyptian royal courts, educated in the ways of Egypt and knowing the strengths and weaknesses of the influential rulers of the country.

He infused me with resources that I did not recognize. Resources he intends for me to use for *his* benefit.

I see only me, myself, alone... but God, he's been working behind the scenes on my brother, Aaron, and my sister, Miriam. He has been shaping Pharaoh and the entire country of Egypt. He has been working with the leaders of Israel to prepare them for my mission. His mission.

God has been forging resources in me. For his use. He does that for his servants. He wants his servants to be successful, so he gives them the resources needed to serve him successfully.

So, let's reverse that thought. He gives you what you need, so what has he already given you? Review the resources he has already placed in your trust. Rather than a to-do list of all the things you think you should do, try a list of the resources you have at your disposal. Add to it the attitude of being God's servant, and you will be ready. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."<sup>5</sup> Written after my time, by the Apostle Paul, but it's my situation exactly.

God removed me from the royal courts of Egypt so he could give me plenty of time in the desert to contemplate. A desert experience for me, literally. For you, maybe figuratively. But maybe not. The point is, you need to be stripped of all distractions in order to build and rebuild who you are, how you interpret or think about things, and even what you think about.

Can you free up time to work on your role as a servant of God? You don't know how what you have can be useful in God's service, but he does. Can you fix cars, bake, coach a sport, babysit, make phone calls, even? Teach or tutor? No doubt you can pray for others. Never underestimate those grandma's who can't hit a parking space in the church lot, are often warriors when it comes to prayer.

Maybe there's a way to use your financial resources in a different way. Take a hard look at your budget, maybe there's a way to use your financial resources in a different way. They're his resources to begin with, if you're his servant. Comparing what you have or don't have? It's not the amount or the value. It's your willingness...how willing are you?

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<sup>5</sup> Colossians 3:23-24

Jesus sums this up in one of the last teachings before his crucifixion. It's known as the story of the sheep and goats.<sup>6</sup> Maybe you've heard it. It describes a time when the Son of Man, the King, comes in his glory and he separates his people, his sheep, from the others. He tells his people of their reward because they fed him, gave him something to drink, housed him, clothed him, and visited him in prison. His sheep are surprised because they didn't know they had done this, couldn't remember. They were such simple things. And they would've definitely remembered doing those things for someone like him. The King replies, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Feed people, give them clothes, and visit them in difficult circumstances. Ways to serve Jesus, our King. People with needs, fill those needs. Simple.

The resources he has placed in your care for the benefit of others will help them, care for them, bless them.

Why you? Because God has resourced you perfectly to serve him and to serve others. Reassuring for a servant of God.

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<sup>6</sup> Matthew 25:31-46