

Seeking Holy Ground in 2023: Confronting Reluctance

Exodus 3:11-18

January 8, 2023

Dr. Jonathan Lovelady

Exodus 3:11-18: But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹² And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." ¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers~ the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob~ has sent me to you. 'This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation. ¹⁶ "Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers~ the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob~ appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. ¹⁷ And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites~ a land flowing with milk and honey.' ¹⁸ "The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.'" (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. _____ with the challenge to believe

_____ hope: Faith is the confident substance of a living hope and acting in a courageous assurance, even though it cannot be seen. Hebrews 11:1 (JOT)

_____: Joseph told his brothers: Do not be afraid! Am I God to judge you? You plotted against me for evil but God planned concerning me for good! This came to pass in order to sustain many people! Genesis 50:19-20 (JOT)

2. _____ for confronting reluctance

_____ the bigger picture: Moses said to God: "Who am I...?" God said, "You are the right person because I will help you! This will be the proof that I have empowered you: You will bring my people out of Egypt and worship me here. Exodus 3:11-12 (JOT)

_____ the signs: If they don't believe the first miracle, they will the second," the Lord said, ⁹"and if they don't accept you after these two signs, then take water from the Nile River and pour it upon the dry land, and it will turn to blood." Exodus 4:8-9 (TLB)

_____ and trust: Then the LORD said to him, "Who made a person's mouth? And who makes someone deaf or not able to speak? Or who gives a person sight or blindness? It is I, the LORD. ¹² Now go! I will help you speak, and I will teach you what to say." Exodus 4:11-12 (NCV)

3. _____ confident in a confusing world

_____ your resolve: Do not cast aside your joyful confidence because it brings with it great reward! Do not give up your resolve to do God's will because you will recover the power of God's promise to you! Hebrews 10:35-36 (JOT)

Spiritual Action Step:

As you struggling to a greater hope in your life? Are you reluctant to trust what God can do in your life? Are you struggling with your determination to follow God? The prophet Isaiah said: *Come, let's consider your options," says the LORD. "Though your sins have stained you like the color red, you can become white like snow; though they are as easy to see as the color scarlet, you can become white like wool.* (Isaiah 1:18 (NET)) Consider the option of believing that Jesus has died for you that you will have eternal life simply by believing in him. Accept the gift of God's grace given to you in Jesus Christ and let it transform your life. This week read Hebrews 11 and 12 to allow the Holy Spirit to strengthen your faith in God's promises!

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; TLB: The Living Bible; NCV: New Century Version.