

## **God's Power– Calls, Exodus 4:18-31, 3/1/2020**

*SermonTalk is an optional resource for those who desire to underscore and apply key concepts from the sermon the previous week. The format and questions are just a menu from which you can choose or use as a foundation for further questions. The material written in bold are Pastor Jeremiah's key points for our focus.*

Since January, UBC has been on a spiritual journey through the story of Moses to discover God's Power. The book of Exodus reminds us that:

1. God's power cannot be stopped. It always shows up at the right time
  2. God's power is a flourishing power. It sets us free
  3. God's power is an uncommon power. An uncommon power from an uncommon God leads us to an uncommon life.
  4. God's power always is.
  5. God's power is demonstrated in our weakness
- Which of these stand out for you and why?
  - Each of these lessons are important for us as we pursue God in our lives. How can knowing the strength of God's power transform our mindset from surviving to thriving?
  - If you were to remind your best friend of God's power, which of these would you be most likely to point to and why?

Pastor Jeremiah's sermon on Sunday, reminded us that God's power calls everyone of us to a particular task and service. This leads us to ask, how is God calling me? How is my life pointing to the gospel?

We will read through the passage. Exodus 4:18-31. As we read, we will listen for the particular call and the events around it. Then we will work through the passage together.

***When God's call comes, we test His call in the context of community and family.*** Moses went to his father-in-law Jethro. This makes sense because Jethro was the closest thing to a father figure that Moses had in his life.

Pastor Jeremiah pointed out the wisdom of inviting community and family into discussion with us when we think we are called to a particular task. This is wise because often we are susceptible to disobedience on our own. Often there is a call we desire or a task that we are drawn to. In talking through our call with others, they help us to test this calling out.

There are other benefits of sharing this calling with others as well. Accountability is created when we share. This often results in questions and comments that are helpful in spurring us forward in our call. Additionally, others are often encouraged as we share. We invite them into a greater story of God's mighty work.

- What makes it possible for Christians to believe that they have a particular calling that sets a direction for their lives?
- Who are the people in your life that you would tell about something you felt God calling you to do?
- What are the best things they could do to help test that call? Support you in that call?

**God's call leads us to face our fears.** Beginning in verse 19, the Lord specifically begins to address the fears that Moses was living with. Moses was certainly afraid to die. God knew that Moses is afraid of his own mortality. Moreover, Moses is afraid for his family and the Hebrew people. Moses saw the severity

of oppression the Hebrews have been facing. That was oppression he did not want his wife and sons to face.

- What are the comforts, promises, hopes that believers can cling to when they are facing deep seated fears?
- How has God used your fears to showcase his own power and strength in your life?

**There is always a specificity of God's call.** Verses 21-23 provide Moses with specifics in what will be asked of him, what will take place, and the difficulties ahead. God's call will always be specific. We need to stay focused on the task before us. We determine what God is calling us to. In the call, God sets expectations, encouraging us to stay focused, work on being faithful to the body of Christ. We lose focus through distractions. This specificity also encourages us to trust other parts of the body of Christ to do their job. The call reiterates, reminding us what obedience looks like.

**God always calls us to a final preparation of deep spiritual significance.** Reading verses 24-26 can be confusing. However, these verses point to the significance of these verses being about circumcision. Pastor Jeremiah pointed out that this is a call to Moses to be completely and totally devoted to Christ.

**Pursue God as a team.** God sent Aaron to go with Moses as he went to the Hebrews and as he went to Pharaoh. When we pursue God, we can be confident that He will put a team around us. This team is often a part of the bigger call that God gives us. He calls us to the team/the people He has us working with. And we must remember that the people we work with always trump the task.

- How have you seen God strengthen you by the people He puts around you?
- The personal skills that we develop are often tested on and refined through those relationships we work most closely with. What skills is God cultivating in you and how is he doing that?

**Follow through and obedience.** When God calls us, we must follow through. The final verses of Exodus 4 (29-31) provide a picture of what can happen when we are obedient. Specific to the Hebrews, we see three responses, they believed, they bowed low (surrendered), and worshiped. These three responses are ones that are true when we are obedient as well.

The fruit of obedience is always faithfulness. This faithfulness is not something we can hoard. We must believe that God is faithful to bless our obedience in the way He wishes. Our obedience always changes us; and, it will change others as well. Regardless of how it manifests itself in your life, the people you encounter will hear the message of the gospel and consequently, worship will follow.

We may not always know what will happen when we follow through on the call God places on our lives. But we can ask ourselves, for what God places before me today, am I following through?

### **Application:**

The call that God places on our lives is of individual and collective importance. We are changed when we obey. And the world is changed when we obey. And every believer is called.

- What helps you understand the specific calling that God places on your life specific to family? Specific to work?
- If someone were to ask you for advice on how to cultivate a team to help them with their calling, what recommendations would you have for them? What wisdom would you give for focusing on the people rather than the task?
- Who are some specific people God is calling you to that need to hear the gospel? What is the next step of obedience that God is calling you to?