Hand It Over

Has there ever been something you did not want to do AT ALL and you came up with every excuse in the world not to do it? Just so you could get out of it? (Mom, tell me I'm busy this weekend!)

Laura used to ask me out all the time and I would always make up some excuse so that I wouldn't have to hang out with her.

…Actually it was the exact opposite of that in our relationship. =)

If you can relate to the idea of coming up with excuses, then you can relate to Moses in Exodus chapter 4.

First a little background…

*Exodus 3:7 And the Lord said: “I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land…*

**Five things God did for them/does for us**

* + 1. **I see your oppression.**
    2. **I hear your cry.**
    3. **I know your sorrows.**
    4. **I have come down to deliver you.**
    5. **I want to take you to a better land.**

Moses is full of excuses—Who am I (vs.11)? What if they ask who sent me (vs.12)?

Pick up in chapter 4. Read vss.1-5.

Another excuse verse 1.

Some of you want to do great things for God. Maybe some of you don’t. Some of you might be scared to death to do great things for God. Some of you are afraid of what other people will say. Some of you wish God would choose anybody else!!! There's got to be SOMEBODY out there who can do this!!!

This morning I want to notice three things that God says to Moses that we can identify with.

**1. "What's that in your hand?” (vs.2)**

Here’s a question that makes us a little uncomfortable, but an important question nonetheless: what talent, ability, or gift has God given you? What do you do well?

What is it that God has put in your hand? (a basketball, a baseball, the ability to listen, an athletic ability, money, a staff (ability to lead people).

Btw, look at Ex.4:17. It’s pretty cool to see all of the things that God would do by the rod of Moses (and of Aaron!). Aaron—Water to blood happened when his rod touched the Nile, became a serpent, budded (Korah’s rebellion). Moses—hail, thunder, file, locusts, parted the waters, defeated Amalekites…

Col.3:23-24. (Albert England—a hammer!)

**2. "Lay it down.” (vs.3)**

What if God told you to lay down your ability? That thing that you love so much. Would you do it?

Maybe this is a little bit of a stretch here in this passage. I mean, Moses didn't have an emotional attachment issues with the rod in his hand.

But the principle still applies. What if God said, "Hey, that baseball in your hand. Cast it to the ground.”

Would you argue?

Your schoolwork? Your intellect? That thing that makes you you! Gives you an identity. Your specific skill set.

We'd like for our relationship with God to not cost anything. But Jesus said, Lay down your own life. In effect, he tells us to lay down our identity so we can find it in him. Put down the baseball, etc.

But then he says this.

**3. "Now pick it up.” (vss.4-5)**

I wish I had a video of Lonnie Jones' skit with the cross from this summer. Do any of you guys remember that? (The cross shop…leave behind everything, take up your cross and follow me.)

Then God says, “Hey, you know that baseball? You can reach people with it. You know your intellect, the brilliant mind I gave you? Go use it for me. That car that you love? Go pick up some people and take them to church. Go visit someone in the hospital.

To be true to the context, we read this story when Moses gives the following excuse: What if they don't believe in me or listen to me—that I heard your voice?

Life Lesson: Have you considered the fact that you can cause people to believe in God by the way that you use what is in your hand!!!

*“Yeah, he's a baseball player. But we all know how they are."*

*"What a minute. Do you know Tyler Brown. He’s a baseball player and that dude is the real deal."*

*“Oh, yeah. You’re right. I guess you can follow God and play sports.”*

God says "You see that thing that I put in your hand? Lay it down and watch what I can do with it. Now pick it up!"