OVERCOMING RELUCTANCE

Col. 3:23

(pt. 1 of 2)
ANTI-LEADER ERA

“Uncool” to be Decisive
You need to be “Group person”
It’s Democracy “gone to seed”
GOD DEFINES HIS LEADERSHIP

Ez. 22:30
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"And I searched for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it;"
Ez. 22:30
"And I searched for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.
Birth Name - Unknown. Named Mosheh (mo-sheh'); “drawn out” [of water]
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Age - 80
Birth Name - Unknown. Named Mosheh (mo-sheh'); “drawn out” [of water]
Age - 80
Most Recent Employment: Shepherd
Birth Name - Unknown. Named Mosheh (mo-sheh'); “drawn out” [of water]

Age - 80

Most Recent Employment: Shepherd

Education – “University of the Sun, Egypt"
Birth Name - Unknown. Named Mosheh (mo-sheh'); “drawn out” [of water]

Age - 80

Most Recent Employment: Shepherd

Education – “University of the Sun, Egypt

Experience – Military Hero. “Pharaoh-elect”
Moses is ALSO a Fugitive.  

Ex. 2:11-12, 15

When Moses had grown up, he went out to his brethren ...and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew (slave)... when he saw there was no one {around,} he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand... When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled [to] the land of Midian...”
WHAT GOD SEES IN MOSES

Ex. 3:1 - Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Horeb (AKA Sinai), the mountain of God.
Ex. 3:2-3 - And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. So Moses said, "I must turn aside now, and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up."
Ex. 3:4 & 7 - When the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush, and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." (7) And the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings..."
Ex. 3:10 - "Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.”
Ex. 3:10 - "Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt."

11 But Moses said to God, "Who (me)? Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?"
Ex. 3:12 - And God said, "Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain."

NOT IF, “WHEN.” NOT MIGHT, “SHALL.”
FOUR EXCUSES

- As Relevant today as ever
- As Common to man today as ever
- As Stifling to Growth as ever
FOUR EXCUSES - # 1

FEAR OF **RIDICULE**
Ex. 3:14 - And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”
Ex. 3:19-20 - "But I know that the king of Egypt will not permit you to go, except under compulsion. So I will stretch out My hand, and strike Egypt with all My miracles which I shall do in the midst of it; and after that he will let you go."
Ex. 4:1 - Then Moses answered and said, "What if they will not believe me, or listen to what I say? For they may say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'"
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“I MAY NOT HAVE THEIR RESPECT.”
Ex. 4:2-4 - And the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" And he said, "A staff." Then God said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. But the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand and grasp {it} by its tail"—so he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff (again) in his hand—
Ex. 4:5 “that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”
Ex. 4:6-7 - And the LORD furthermore said to him, "Now put your hand into your bosom." So he put his hand into his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. Then He said, "Put your hand into your bosom again." So he put his hand into his bosom again; and when he took it out of his bosom, behold, it was restored like {the rest of} his flesh.
Ex. 4:8 - "And it shall come about that if they will not believe you or heed the witness of the first sign, they may believe the witness of the last sign..."
Ex. 4:9 – “But it shall be that if they will not believe even these two signs or heed what you say, then you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground; and the water which you take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”
Every Plague of God was designed to demonstrate His superiority over Egypt’s false gods...

1. Water to Blood > Hapi, god of the Nile
   Isis, goddess of the Nile
   Khnum, guardian of the Nile

2. Frogs > Heqet, god with frog head
3. Gnats >
   - Set, god of the desert

4. Insects (Flies) >
   - Re, sun god
   - Uatchit, body of a fly

5. Livestock Epidemic >
   - Hathor, goddess w/Cow Head
   - Apis, bull god (fertility)
   - Mnevis, sacred bull of Heliopolis
RE. PLAGUES

6. Boils >
   Sekhmet, power over disease
   Sunu, pestilence god
   Isis, goddess of healing

7. Hailstorm >
   Nut, sky god
   Set, god of storms
   Osiris, god of crops
   Seth, protector of crops
RE. PLAGUES

8. Locusts > Seth, protector of crops
       Nut, sky goddess

9. Darkness > Re, Aten, Atum, Horus, Hathor–all sun gods (esses)

10. Death of 1st Born > Min, god of reproduction
       Isis, protector of children
       Heqet, god of birth
       *Pharoah, 1st born son= a god
TRUSTING GOD’S PROMISES

Question # 1
TRUSTING GOD’S PROMISES

If God promised you that YOU were going to be successful at ________________, would you make an excuse NOT to do it?
TRUSTING GOD’S PROMISES

Question # 2
If YOU did make an excuse, and God reassured YOU that even with your fears and with your apprehensions, that HE was going to absolutely guarantee your victory, would YOU still ask to be excused from the game?
THE CURE FOR RELUCTANCE IS TRUST IN GOD

Moses - “Who am I to be your spokesman?”
THE CURE FOR RELUCTANCE IS TRUST IN GOD

Moses - “Who AM I to be your spokesman?”

God – “It’s NOT about who you are, but who I AM.”
THE CURE FOR RELUCTANCE IS TRUST IN GOD

Moses - “Who will believe me?”
God – “It’s NOT about people believing YOU, it’s YOU believing ME and TRUSTING ME.”
[Our] God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;
From Ignorance to **Confidence**; From Fear to **Faith**

- **Acts 4:13** - Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John, and understood that they were *uneducated and untrained men*, they were marveling, and *{began} to recognize them as having been with Jesus.*

- **Acts 17:6** - 6 And when they did not find them, they *{began} dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset the world (turned things upside down-KJV) have come here also;*
JESUS SAID;

Matt 28:20

20b “...and lo, I AM with you always, even to the end of the age.”

(NAS)
Some of Satan’s Excuses

• You’re too **young** to obey the Gospel

• You’re too **smart** to need to Obey Christ

• You’re too **busy** to become Christian

• You’re too **wicked** to Obey His Calling

• You’re too **old** to start over now.
When you listen to Satan’s Excuses ...

- You are saying in essence –
  
  “I know you are the great $I\ AM$, but there is no way you can save me or even use me in your service.”
GOD’S REPLY

Trust **ME** Moses.
**I AM** greater than your fear of ridicule
**I AM** greater than then your concern about respect
**I AM** greater than the gods of Egypt
*I AM* greater than anyone, or anything, any man may face…
GOD’S REPLY

“I CAN save you and I WILL use you, if you will obey ME.”