

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
Commentary by Michael Sigler
June 14, 2009

Moses and Aaron Respond

Exodus 4:10-16, 27-31

Key verse: “Aaron spoke all the words that the Lord had spoken to Moses, and performed the signs in the sight of the people” (Exodus 4:30).

One of the great things about the Bible is that even its heroes are merely human. They, like us, have “feet of clay.” So, I can see myself walking in their sandals!

For example, we all can relate to Moses’ struggle to get out of doing what God has called him to do. His excuse? *God, I’m a poor speaker, so I can’t do this job.* God’s answer? *Moses, “I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak” (v. 12).*

Next, Moses gets to the heart of the matter. He says, “*O my Lord, please send someone else*” (v.13). Sound familiar? If you have ever served on your church’s Committee on Lay Leadership, it does. Just try rounding up volunteers to serve in the church and you’ll be amazed at how creative some people’s excuses can be.

I am reminded of the farmer who asked his neighbor if he could borrow a rope.

“Sorry,” said the neighbor. “I’m using my rope to tie up my milk.”

“Rope can’t tie up milk.”

“I know,” replied the neighbor, “but when a man doesn’t want to do something, one reason is as good as another.”

The bottom line so often is that, like Moses, we want somebody else—anybody else but us—to do what God is calling us to do. Now, of course there are legitimate reasons to say no when we’re asked to serve. But let’s face it, most of us have a lot of Moses’ tendencies in us. When God calls us, we’re quick to say “*O my Lord, please send someone else*”!

Ultimately, God overcomes Moses’ excuses and sends Aaron to be Moses’ spokesman and partner in ministry. This whole episode is a wonderful lesson for us. The lesson that God taught Moses? *When God calls, God provides.* God will never call us to any task without supplying all that we need to obey God’s call. *When God calls, God provides.*

Is God calling you? Is God calling you to say yes to an opportunity to serve? Is God calling you to reach out to a neighbor? Is God calling you to speak up for what is right? Is God calling you to share your faith with a friend or family member?

If the answer is yes, don't look for a convenient excuse or expect someone else to do what God is calling you to do. Step out in faith. Trust God to go with you. And be confident that *when God calls, God provides*.

Here is one final thought on our lesson. God sometimes calls us in spite of our weaknesses. God often calls us with the intention of using our weaknesses for His glory. For Moses, the weakness was a lack of speaking ability. For the Apostle Paul, the weakness was his "thorn in the flesh." Rather than make our weaknesses an excuse, we can learn that our Lord's power "is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9).

One of the most inspiring speakers I have heard recently is a 25-year-old Australian without any arms or legs, named Nick Vujcic. Nick has now spoken to over 2 million people in 12 countries. He oversees Life Without Limbs, an organization for the physically disabled.

Because of his disability, Nick once considered suicide. He remembers hearing in Sunday School about being made in the image of God and thinking such a teaching must be a cruel joke. But at age 15, Nick discovered a Bible passage that changed him forever. Nick read the story of the blind man whom Jesus said was born blind "so that the work of God could be revealed through him."

"That gave me peace," Nick said. "I prayed, 'Lord, here I am. Use me. Mold me. Make me the man you want me to be.'" God has answered Nick's prayer, demonstrating once again that our Lord's power "is made perfect in weakness" and that *when God calls, God provides*.

(Contact Michael at michaelsigler@cox.net)