

**Series:** Exodus

**Sermon:** The Fight to Believe God

**Scripture:** Exodus 3:16-5:23 (ESV)

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- I. God's Promises (3:16-22)
- II. Moses's Unbelief (4:1-17)
- III. Moses's Obedience -- God's Instructions -- The People's Belief (4:18-31)
- IV. Moses's Disbelief (Exodus Ch. 5)

If our trust in God is centered on our perception of whether things are working out or not, we will wade in the shallows of belief but we will swim in the deep of unbelief and disbelief.

If our trust in God is centered on the promises of God, we will wade in the shallows of unbelief and disbelief but we will swim in the deep of belief.

Perception or Promises. Good circumstances or God. Where are we living?

Application:

- 1. Fight to believe that God is at work.
- 2. Fight to believe that He's doing a work of redemption.

**Exodus 3:16-22 (ESV)**

*<sup>16</sup>Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt,*

*<sup>17</sup>and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey."*

*<sup>18</sup>And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.'*

<sup>19</sup> But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand.

<sup>20</sup> So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go.

<sup>21</sup> And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty,

<sup>22</sup> but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.”

### **Exodus 4:1-17 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then Moses answered, “But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you.’”

<sup>2</sup> The LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.”

<sup>3</sup> And he said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it.

<sup>4</sup> But the LORD said to Moses, “Put out your hand and catch it by the tail”—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand—

<sup>5</sup> “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.”

<sup>6</sup> Again, the LORD said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow.

<sup>7</sup> Then God said, “Put your hand back inside your cloak.” So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh.

<sup>8</sup> “If they will not believe you,” God said, “or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign.

<sup>9</sup> If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

<sup>10</sup> But Moses said to the LORD, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.”

<sup>11</sup> Then the LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?

<sup>12</sup> Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.”

<sup>13</sup> But he said, “Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.”

<sup>14</sup> Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, “Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

<sup>15</sup> You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do.

<sup>16</sup> He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him.

<sup>17</sup> And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs.”

**Exodus 4:31 (ESV)**

<sup>31</sup> *And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshipped.*

**Exodus 5:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> But Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."

**Exodus 5:7-8 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> "You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves.

<sup>8</sup> But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, 'Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.'"

**Exodus 5:22-23 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> Then Moses turned to the Lord and said, "O Lord, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me?

<sup>23</sup> For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, He has done evil to this people, and You have not delivered Your people at all."