

Resistance Is Futile

Long Beach Alliance Church • October 10th, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford

The LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say.”

~Exodus 4:11-12 (NASB)

1) Getting Our “I” Focused On The Right “I”

- A) Immediately following God’s provision of two signs (staff/ snake & skin disease/healing) and an additional provision of a curse (changing Nile water to blood) (Exodus 4:1-9), Moses’ objections about going to Egypt become personal.
- B) Apparently satisfied with God’s signs, Moses turns his attention to his perceptions of his own abilities, telling God that he lacks the eloquence to accomplish what has asked him to do (4:10).
- C) Moses literally says that he is “heavy of mouth and heavy of tongue” (4:10), perhaps referring to a speech impediment (LXX, stuttering?), or to a loss of his command on the Egyptian language and diplomatic nuances. Whatever the issue, Moses’ focus is on himself (his “I” is focused on the wrong thing).

D) God’s answer is instructive for both Moses and our own lives. God is not focused on human abilities or on what a person has to offer to God. Rather God is focused on what He can do. Note that God replaces Moses’ “I” with “I AM” (4:11-12). It’s not about “I” but about “I AM.”

E) Further, in the face of God as the creator (4:11), Moses’ arguments are not only invalid, but also irrelevant. Human problems and impediments are hardly a challenge for God!

2) Resistance Is Futile

- A) For Moses, the time has come! His objections have proven to be without merit. There are no more excuses or reasons for delay. He must either go or refuse God’s leading in his life. And Moses – chooses to refuse (4:13)!
- B) God’s anger is immediate toward Moses’ refusal (4:14). Moses’ protests have gone from legitimate, to illegitimate, and now to the absurd. God will have none of it.
- C) God concedes to Moses’ concern about a lack of eloquence, responding to his refusal by appointing his brother, “Aaron the Levite,” as Moses’ mouthpiece (4:14-15).
- D) At first glance, Moses has gotten his way, but there is a lesson which God has for Moses in the midst of this concession. Moses will be “as God” to his mouthpiece brother (4:16). Moses will get a very real and personal lesson in great leadership AND followership, and feel what it is like to have a follower represent him to the people.
- E) So Moses takes “God’s staff” in hand (4:17) and asks Jethro, his father-in-law, to go back to Egypt (4:18), which Jethro grants to Moses. God sends Moses with some encouragement, and away they all go to Egypt (4:19-20).