

The Importance of Serving – Week 7 of HHBC 3D

September 28

I. Review:

- Church's Mission, Vision, and Values and introducing "3D" (three-dimensional) church membership:
 - *Consistently participating in **weekend services**,*
 - *Doing life together through **Community Groups**,*
 - *Serving in and/or through one of the ministries of the church.*
- **Importance of Corporate Worship in Our Spiritual Renewal** (Joel 2:12-19)
- **Importance of Community Groups in Living Life Together** (Romans 15:1-7)
- **Importance of Serving through Spiritual Gifts** (I Corinthians 12:4-26)

This week our discussion will focus on serving **using our God-given natural abilities, experiences, and passions to serve God and one another.**

II. Discussion and Application:

Today we will read about a man called by God to a vast task and his brother called by God to help fulfill this task. Because the brothers used their natural abilities **to serve God together**, an entire nation was changed forever.

In Exodus 3 as a shepherd comes across a burning bush. Through that bush God states that He has seen the affliction and heard the cries of His enslaved people, and thus God says, *"Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."* We then read that twice in that chapter this shepherd, Moses, openly objects to his usefulness in this overwhelming job. And twice God reassures Moses that He will provide all that Moses needs. As chapter 4 begins, Moses once again doubts the people will believe God sent Moses – a shepherd – to save them. And once again God shows Moses how He will perform signs and wonders so that the people will believe.

Moses – and Aaron – Follow God's Call to Serve

Exodus 4:10-17

10 Moses said to the Lord, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." 11 The Lord said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." 13 But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else." 14 Then the Lord's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. 15 You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. 16 He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. 17 But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it."

Having already voiced multiple objections to God about being chosen as the man to lead God's people out of slavery, in verse 10 we read as Moses pulls out his trump card of excuses – his inability to speak well.

Moses' Greatest Objection prompts God's Faithful Assurance (v. 10-12)

In reading verse 10, Moses says this 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."*

God responds to Moses, saying, *"Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."*

Moses' True Heart prompts God's Faithful Solution (v. 13-17)

At this, Moses simply gives up trying to convince God he is not the man for the job. He has raised objection after objection and excuse after excuse. Moses finally just says to God, *"Oh, my Lord, please send someone else."*

The truth is that we have all been called to serve, and yet we always have excuses why we cannot. But God always shows us grace, and more importantly, He always provides what we need, when we need it, to serve as He calls.

God then gets angry with Moses. But instead of unleashing that anger, God is faithful to give Moses a solution.

God points out to Moses **5 realities that would ultimately help he and Aaron fulfill their task:**

1. God mentions that Aaron was a Levite – a priest – who had years and years of experience in this role.
2. God mentions that Aaron could speak well. This talent was not a spiritual gift God had bestowed through the Holy Spirit, but rather his ease in speaking was a natural, God-given ability.
3. God mentions that Aaron will see Moses and “*be glad in his heart*”. In short, Aaron would be glad to help.
4. God mentions that He would be with Aaron and Moses’ mouths, and He would teach them what to do. God would do the amazing work – all Moses and Aaron had to do was be willing to be used by God.
5. God mentions both men had a role to play: Moses would do the signs and Aaron would speak to the people.

God calls us to serve and will provide what we need to serve.

Exodus 4:27-31

27 The Lord said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he met Moses at the mountain of God and kissed him. 28 Then Moses told Aaron everything the Lord had sent him to say, and also about all the signs he had commanded him to perform. 29 Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, 30 and Aaron told them everything the Lord had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, 31 and they believed. And when they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

Our hearts should praise God for using the obedience of these men to serve to draw His people into worship and ultimately deliver them out of their slavery.

III. Small Group Discussion and Questions:

1. *What did Moses and all of us need to understand about God’s role in fulfilling the task we are called to serve?*
2. *In what ways do we do the same thing as Moses and try to push God away when He calls us to serve?*
3. *How can we be encouraged and apply to our lives the fact that Aaron’s skill to speak was a natural, God-given ability that God desired to use to fulfill His will?*
4. *Why is it important to serve with a passion and a true gladness for serving the Lord?*
5. *How does God’s provision of skills, gifts and direction make serving more enjoyable and less pressured for results or serving perfectly?*
6. *How can we apply the story of Moses and Aaron to our lives as we serve God?*