

Series: Questions

Title: Who Hath Made Man's Mouth?

Text: Exodus 4: 11

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Last week we saw a question from the Lord to Moses, now this week we will look at another.

**Exodus 4: 10: And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. 11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? 12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.**

**Title: Who Hath Made Man's Mouth?**

**Proposition:** If we would believe the LORD then we must look away from ourselves to the Lord alone.

**I. IF WE LOOK TO OURSELVES WE WILL NOT BELIEVE THE WORD OF THE LORD.**

**Exodus 4: 10: And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I *am* slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.**

**We Have the Word of the LORD**

Moses had what we have. He had the word of the LORD. We have the same word of the LORD. The promises the LORD made to Moses he makes to us he has called to believe him and to go forth bearing witness of his name. We have these same promises. Christ said,

1) He had seen the affliction of his people, heard their cry and knew their sorrows. So the LORD had "come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey;" (Ex 3: 8)

2) The Lord promised Moses, "Certainly I will be with thee" and promised to bring Moses again to this place. (Ex 3: 12)—the LORD promises to be with his people.

3) He told Moses who to preach, "I AM THAT I AM"—the eternal God whose name and memorial is to make good on all his promises. (Ex 3: 14-15)—the LORD has told us, "He that glorieth let him glory in the LORD."

4) He assured Moses his people would hear his voice (Ex 3: 18). We have that same word. The LORD shall make his word effectual. He will do it.

5) The LORD assured Moses he would give his people favor in the sight of the Egyptians and provide for his people in temporal things as well. (Ex 21-22)—we have that promise.

6) The Lord showed Moses 3 signs—we saw how they typified various aspects of Christ, our gospel and the power God works in those who hear the gospel—either to regenerate or to judge those who hear. The LORD has promised us his word shall not return to him void—it shall prosper in the thing whereunto he sends it.

See how Moses had all these promises from the LORD? Just like each believer here today has the word of the LORD. No matter how things appear, rather than look to ourselves, always believe the promise of the LORD. If we look to ourselves we will not believe the word of the Lord.

### **Problems with Looking to Self**

Listen to Moses objection, “And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I *am* slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.”

We are not going to be tough on Moses but we are going to learn from what he did and from what the Lord said to him.

After hearing the sure promises of the Lord, who was Moses really looking to? Moses is looking to himself. Moses said, “I’m not eloquent.” He was being sent to a king—to Pharaoh—surely such a one would only hear him if used eloquence. Worse than that, Moses describes himself as having some sort of a speech impediment—“slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.”

Do you see how Moses is looking to himself? The chief cause of our not trusting God, to have done what he says he has done and to do what God says he shall do—is because we look to ourselves.

Brethren, we do not have any sufficiency in ourselves? The sufficiency is not of us. We are by nature depraved, in our flesh dwells no good thing; we have no sufficiency to give ourselves life—we must be born again of the Spirit of God; we have no sufficiency to believe or repent—faith and repentance must be given to us of God; we have no sufficiency to continue in the faith, to preach, to provide for ourselves or for others. This problem Moses was having was pride. Unbelief and pride are so closely related.

When will a sinner believe the Lord? We will believe only when the Lord makes us see we have nothing good in us but Christ is All. When will a believer cast all his care into the hand of the Lord? We will cast our care into the hand of the Lord only when the Lord makes him see that we can’t provide for ourselves but that HE CARETH FOR YOU. When will I be truly strong so that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me? I will be strong only when the Lord makes me to know that in myself I am utterly weak and can do nothing of myself and he makes me to behold all my strength is Christ who shall not fail. This is so in things spiritual and temporal. Our LORD provides all for us spiritually and temporally. We have no sufficiency in ourselves.

## **II. THE LORD HAS MADE US LIKE WE ARE SO HE GETS THE GLORY RATHER THAN US.**

**Exodus 4: 11: And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?**

### **The LORD Made Us Like We Are**

The LORD made Moses mouth—he was not eloquent; he was slow of speech, slow of tongue because the LORD made his mouth that way. If a man is dumb—cannot speak at all, if deaf, if he has sight or is blind, the LORD made him so.

The LORD could have given Moses eloquence but he did not. Think of what the Lord had given Moses since his birth. The Lord delivered him out of the river in Egypt. He made it so that Moses was raised in Pharaoh’s house. The Lord directed his steps to where he was now. And the LORD gave Moses all these promises. So see, the LORD could have given Moses eloquence but he did not. The LORD even made him slow of speech. Why?

## The Glory Belongs to Christ

The glory and the power in saving, calling and delivering his people is of the Lord, not of us.

Zechariah 4: 6:...This is the word of the LORD...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

**Illustration:** The Lord exalted Paul to the third heaven. Paul said he was “caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.” (2 Cor 12: 4) But when the LORD gave him that increase in the new man, the LORD gave him decrease in his flesh—on purpose for a reason.

2 Corinthians 12: 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

What if Moses HAD been eloquent in speech? What if you could justify yourself? What if you could give yourself spiritual life by your will? What if you could sanctify yourself? What if you could provide for yourself? What if you could resurrect yourself from the dead? What if you could do one work to add to your salvation? Then we would have reason to glory and we would have no need of God and his salvation.

The Lord chose foolish, weak, nothing sinners to preach his gospel so that no flesh shall glory in his presence. It is the Lord who made them that way. He makes us nothing—slow of speech, uneducated fishermen—or he calls a Paul and gives him a thorn in the flesh, brings him down. When he brings such a one down, to see what we are, to see we have no faith of ourselves, that the LORD made us weak on purpose, that’s the kind of man who speaks God’s word instead of his own. He sees that true eloquence is taking these scriptures and just preaching what they teach rather than using wisdom to take the edge off

In 1 Corinthians 1, the Spirit of God says the reason he chooses nobodies to preach his gospel is “that no flesh should glory IN HIS PRESCENCE.” The glory goes to Christ the Prophet. When he sends his preacher, his presence goes with the word preached. Peter, said, “Repent and be converted with the times of refreshing shall come “from the presence of the LORD.” (Acts 3: 19) Preaching that Christ has sent, which only glorifies him, is the only preaching by which he makes his presence known.

**Exodus 4: 12: Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.**

What a gracious, patient, longsuffering Savior we have! Back in chapter 3 Moses said, “Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh,” And the Lord said, “Certainly, I will be with THEE.” Here Moses complains about his mouth and the Lord says, “I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.”

True eloquence is not in man’s wisdom of words. True eloquence is speaking the word of God as it is. There is nothing more profound than the gospel contained in the two and three syllable words of these scriptures.

**Review:** 1) So first, look away from ourselves to the Lord or we will not believe. 2) Remember the Lord made you weak so that Christ our Prophet gets all the glory.

**III. WE ANGER THE LORD BY NOT SUBMITTING TO HIM.**

## **The LORD Calls Us to Bear His Cross**

**Exodus 4: 13: And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of *him whom thou wilt send*.**

That is exactly what the Lord was doing. He was sending the hand he would have to go. And it was Moses. Moses sounds so humble in this petition. We can sound very God-honoring when the truth is we are being rebellious. But Moses saw the suffering, the sacrifice, the cross he would bear from opposition—he wanted the Lord to use someone else. It would be a lot more pleasant tending his father-in-laws sheep than the Lord's sheep.

**Exodus 4: 14: And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses,**

The Lord calls us to bear his cross. Remember what we saw Christ did when the LORD opened his ear and sent him.

Isaiah 50: 5: The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

From eternity Christ looked to that day he would come to this earth but he was not rebellious, neither turned away back. In the fullness of time, he came forth.

Isaiah 50: 6: I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

Christ was called and came and bore the cross, bore the sin of his people, bore the justice of God in place of his people. Christ suffered for us and put away our sin by sacrificing himself. He did so as the servant, as the Man, in place of his people, depending entirely upon the Father.

Isaiah 50: 7: For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

Even when it did not look like the LORD God would help him, he still trusted the word of his Father

Isaiah 50: 8: He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me. 9 Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.

Christ trusted the Father's word to justify him after he was made sin for his people. He trusted the Father to bring him again to heaven's mountain just like Christ told Moses he would bring him again to that mountain. So you see why he was angry with Moses, we see why he is angry with us when we rebel against bearing the cross for his name's sake. Just look at what he did for us. So Christ says...

Isaiah 50: 10: Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God. 11 Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.

The Lord provided Aaron to go with Moses but Moses suffered much because of it: Aaron mocked him for marrying an Ethiopian and Aaron led the children to worship a golden calf. It is always better to submit to the Lord rather than provoke him to anger.

#### **IV. IT SHOULD GIVE US EVEN MORE REASON TO TRUST THE LORD THE FIRST TIME, WHEN WE SEE THAT HE EVEN OVERRULES OUR REBELLION TO ACCOMPLISH HIS ETERNAL PURPOSE.**

**Exodus 4: 14:** And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, *Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.*

#### **Christ Typified in Aaron**

Right then Aaron came forth to meet Moses. This was not by accident. Even Moses rebellion was known beforehand—no excuse—but it was known. But the Lord ordered everything so Aaron would go with Moses because Christ was providing someone who would picture his office and his work.

**Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother?**—Christ is our Near Kinsmen, our Elder Brother, our High Priest, the one who made atonement for us.

**I know that he can speak well**—Isaiah 50, Christ said, God the Father hath given me the tongue of the learned that I might know how to speak a word in season to the weary.

**He cometh forth to meet thee:...**a picture of the willingness with which Christ our High Priest came forth when the fullness of time was come

**And when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart...**Christ saw his brethren and was glad in his heart to serve for them. Moses was not glad, Christ was glad.

**Exodus 4: 15: And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth:** Like as the LORD promised to put words in Moses mouth. Remember Moses also pictures the law. The Law and the Prophets put words in Christ's mouth—and he fulfilled all.

**Exodus 4: 15...and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. 16: And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, *even* he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.** Like the Lord called Moses to be his spokesman unto the people now Aaron would be that mouthpiece. Now Moses would be a mediator between Christ and Aaron, like as Christ is the Mediator between God and his people. **17: And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.**

So though Moses was without excuse, though we are without excuse in our rebellion, still the Lord overrules it to bring glory to his name. That should make us more eager to submit to his word in the beginning.

#### **Let Us See Ourselves in Moses**

Now let's put ourselves in Moses shoes. We so often use the sovereignty of God to cover the deceit of our hearts. Moses had God's word clearly revealed and the promise directly from God that God would provide so that there was absolutely no excuse for not obeying the Lord.

We give our reasons for not going forth and doing the various things which God has clearly taught us in scriptures we are to do, things revealed, things which we cannot plead ignorance on. I am talking about things clearly revealed in the word of God.

And we act humble and say, “I am not sure if it is the Lord’s will for me to go forth at this time.” That was not what was keeping Moses from going forth—it was pride, not humility; it was unbelief, not faith; it was looking to self, rather than God. And that is what is really holding us back a great deal of the time. The problem was simply this—Moses did not want to go because he did not want to suffer.

So remember these points we saw: 1) If we look to ourselves we will not believe—Moses said, “I am not eloquent.” The power is of God not of us. 2) The Lord made our mouth, he gives and withholds, so that he gets all the glory. If he wanted us to have more he could give it. This way he brings more glory to his name. 3) We anger the Lord and suffer much by not simply believing him and going forth. And we suffer in the long run as Moses did. 4) But the Lord even overrules our rebellion and brings glory to his name. What a patient, gracious, good God and Savior we have. Believe him. Serve him. He makes good on his promise.

Amen!