

May 22, 2022

The Heart and Tongue Exodus 4 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 12 Num. 21

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will look at the 4th chapter of Exodus. In this passage we see Moses continue to give excuses to God about why he cannot go to Egypt. Moses' first objection is, what if they don't believe me. God gives Moses some miraculous signs to show the people that God truly sent him. Moses' next objection is that he is not a good speaker. God responds by reminding Moses who created his mouth, then He appoints Aaron to speak to the people for Moses. Closing the chapter we see the importance of obedience and we see the people believe and worship God. Join us this week as we look at the commissioning of Moses and seek to understand how we can be equipped and used by God.

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? NOW
THEREFORE GO, AND I WILL BE
WITH YOUR MOUTH AND TEACH
YOU WHAT YOU SHALL SPEAK."
EXODUS 4:11-12

EXODUS 4 NASB

Moses Given Powers

1Then Moses said, “What if they will not believe me or listen to what I say? For they may say, ‘The LORD has not appeared to you.’” 2The LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” And he said, “A staff.” 3Then He said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. 4But the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand and grasp *it* by its tail”—so he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand— 5“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.”

6The LORD furthermore said to him, “Now put your hand into your bosom.” So he put his hand into his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. 7Then He said, “Put your hand into your bosom again.” So he put his hand into his bosom again, and when he took it out of his bosom, behold, it was restored like *the rest of* his flesh. 8“If they will not believe you or heed the witness of the first sign, they may believe the witness of the last sign. 9But if they will not believe even these two signs or heed what you say, then you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground; and the water which you take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

10Then Moses said to the LORD, “Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” 11The 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? 12Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say.” 13But he said, “Please, Lord, now send *the message* by whomever You will.”

Aaron to Be Moses’ Mouthpiece

14Then the anger of the LORD burned against Moses, and He said, “Is there not your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he speaks fluently. And moreover, behold, he is coming out to meet you; when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. 15You are to speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I, even I, will be with your mouth and his mouth, and I will teach you what you are to do. 16Moreover, he shall speak for you to the people; and he will be as a mouth for you and you will be as God to him. 17You shall take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs.”

18Then Moses departed and returned to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, “Please, let me go, that I may return to my brethren who are in Egypt, and see if they are still alive.” And Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.” 19Now the LORD said to Moses in Midian, “Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead.” 20So Moses took his wife and his sons and mounted them on a donkey, and returned to the land of Egypt. Moses also took the staff of God in his hand.

21The LORD said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. 22Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Israel is My son, My firstborn. 23So I said to you, ‘Let My son go that he may serve Me’; but you have refused to let him go. Behold, I will kill your son, your firstborn.” ’ ”

24Now it came about at the lodging place on the way that the LORD met him and sought to put him to death. 25Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son’s foreskin and threw it at Moses’ feet, and she said, “You are indeed a bridegroom of blood to me.” 26So He let him alone. At that time she said, “*You are a bridegroom of blood*”—because of the circumcision.

27Now the LORD said to Aaron, “Go to meet Moses in the wilderness.” So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. 28Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD with which He had sent him, and all the signs that He had commanded him *to do*. 29Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the sons of Israel; 30and Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. He then performed the signs in the sight of the people. 31So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD was concerned about the sons of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, then they bowed low and worshiped.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

1.

2.

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- 4.
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- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

🕒 **EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

1. How does Moses convince the people that God is speaking to him?

2. Moses says he is not eloquent and slow of speech. How do we reconcile this with what we read last week in Acts 7:22?

3. Why does the anger of the Lord burn against Moses?

4. Why does the Lord use Aaron to speak for Moses even after He tells Moses that He created his mouth? Telling Moses He created his mouth seems to indicate that He can use Moses anyway.

5. Why do you think God sought to put Moses to death in verse 24?

6. Why do the people believe Moses and worship God?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

7. What do you think is the main idea of this passage?

8. Where do we see an emphasis on obedience in this passage? Why is obedience important in our lives?

9. What do we learn from God's response that He created Moses' mouth? How does this impact our decisions on how we serve God?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes