

Exodus: "It's Time To Go!"

Echo Church | Week 20 | May 18, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr.

"No More Excuses"

Exodus 4

1 Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'"

2 So the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?"

He said, "A rod."

3 And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.

4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand),

5 "that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

6 Furthermore the LORD said to him, "Now put your hand in your bosom." And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow.

7 And He said, "Put your hand in your bosom again." So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh.

8 "Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign.

9 And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. The water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land."

10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

11 So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD?"

12 Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

13 But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send."

14 So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: “Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

15 Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do.

16 So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God.

17 And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs.”

18 So Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, “Please let me go and return to my brethren who are in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive.” And Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.”

19 Now the LORD said to Moses in Midian, “Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead.”

20 Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

21 And the LORD said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.

22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Israel is My son, My firstborn.

23 So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.” ’ ”

24 And it came to pass on the way, at the encampment, that the LORD met him and sought to kill him.

25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son and cast it at Moses’ feet, and said, “Surely you are a husband of blood to me!”

26 So He let him go. Then she said, “You are a husband of blood!”—because of the circumcision.

27 And the LORD said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and kissed him.

28 So Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which He had commanded him.

29 Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel.

30 And Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people.

31 So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Introduction

Family, I need you to lean in because this word is for everyone who's been sitting on the sidelines of their calling. I'm talking to those of us who have been procrastinating on purpose. You've heard God clearly. You've seen the signs. You've received the confirmation. But if you're honest, you're still stuck in a cycle of excuses.

"I'm not ready."

"I'm not good enough."

"What will they think?"

"God, you've got the wrong person."

Sound familiar? Listen, excuses are nothing new. You're not the first person to have a million reasons why you can't do what God is calling you to do. You're not the first person to wrestle with insecurity, fear, or uncertainty. But can I tell you something? Excuses don't exempt you from your assignment.

And this isn't just your issue; it's a Moses issue too. Y'all, Moses was THAT guy. Chosen by God. Audibly called. Equipped with signs and wonders. And yet, in *Exodus 4*, this man was over here trying to negotiate his way out of destiny. But here's what I love about God: He doesn't back down. He confronts those excuses head-on, not just to challenge Moses but to prepare him for the incredible assignment ahead.

Today, we're about to take a deep look at Moses' dialogue with God. But don't think for a second this is just ancient history. This is OUR dialogue too. God's asking us the same questions, giving us the same confirmation, and calling us into the same courage.

Here's the question I need you to wrestle with as we dig in today: *What have I been holding back from God because of my excuses?*

Y'all, it's time. No more running. No more doubting. No more waiting for the "perfect" moment. **It's time to throw down what's in your hand, trust the One who gave it, and step into the fullness of your calling.**

Because this ain't just about Moses. It's about YOU. It's time to go!

Points

Point 1: Called by God, Unbothered by Man

"What if they do not believe me or listen to me?" (Exodus 4:1)

Stop anchoring your purpose to people's opinions. God called you, and that overrides every ounce of doubt others might throw your way. Your assignment isn't tied to their approval but to your obedience.

Point 2: The Miracle Is Already in Your Grip

"Then the Lord said to him, 'What is that in your hand?'" (Exodus 4:2)

God takes the ordinary and makes it extraordinary. What you see as small and insignificant is exactly what God intends to use to fulfill your purpose. Stop waiting for "later" when He's asking, "What's in your hand right now?"

Point 3: God Picks the Unlikely to Do the Unthinkable

"Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent...I am slow of speech and tongue." (Exodus 4:10)

God doesn't recruit based on resumes. If He called you, He'll prepare you. What you see as a flaw, He sees as an opportunity for His power to shine. He doesn't call the qualified—He makes the called qualified.

Point 4: Fear Is the Thief of Purpose

"But Moses said, 'Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.'" (Exodus 4:13)

Fear will tell you to stay stuck, but faith demands movement. Fear wants to freeze you in place, but God is calling you to walk forward in confidence. Your purpose is too big to be held hostage by fear.

Point 5: Partner Up and Pour Out

"What about your brother, Aaron?...I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do." (Exodus 4:14-15)

God never calls you to walk alone. Aaron wasn't just sent to support Moses; Moses was called to lift Aaron too. Who has God placed in your life to help you carry the weight of your assignment? And who are you empowering to step into their own calling? Purpose flourishes in partnership.

Why Are You Still in Midian?

Family, we've got to talk about Midian. Because for some of us, Midian has become our permanent residence when it was only supposed to be a layover. Midian is that place where Moses fled after running from Egypt. It was his refuge, a place to escape the chaos of his past. But can we be real? For Moses, Midian also became a hiding spot. A place where he could avoid his God-given assignment.

See, Midian wasn't entirely bad. There was safety in Midian. There was provision in Midian. Moses found a family, a career, and a sense of stability there. Midian felt comfortable. But here's the problem: **comfort isn't the same as calling**. Midian wasn't Moses' destiny; it was a detour. And for 40 years, he settled for a less-than version of the life God intended for him.

Now, bring that to us. Midian, for today's believer, is any place where you've parked yourself when God is telling you to move. It's that job you know is draining your purpose, but it feels too risky to leave. It's that relationship you're holding onto because it's familiar, even though it's blocking God's best for you. It's that dream God placed in your heart that you've shelved because "now's not the right time." Midian is where excuses thrive, but purpose dies.

Why Do We Stay in Midian?

1. Fear of the Unknown

Moses could've said, "God, you want me to go back to Egypt? The same place I'm running from? Nah, I'm good here." The fear of stepping into something greater kept him stuck. And for us, it's the same. We cling to the familiar because faith requires walking into what we can't control. But hear me loud and clear, family: **you can't fulfill your destiny in your comfort zone**.

2. Comfort in the Familiar

The truth is, leaving Midian feels inconvenient. Moses had a rhythm there. He was tending sheep, raising his family, doing what was stable. But stability isn't the same as purpose. For us, it might look like staying in a job that pays well but doesn't ignite your passion or choosing the easy road over the path God has prepared. **Midian feels like safety, but it's really stagnation**.

3. Avoidance of Responsibility

When God called Moses to return to Egypt, Moses hit Him with a laundry list of excuses. "Who am I to do this? What if they don't believe me? I'm not a good speaker!" Midian gave him a place to avoid the weight of his calling. And if we're honest, we do the same. We avoid the hard stuff because it's easier to stay where we are. But can I tell you something? **Avoidance doesn't erase the assignment**. God's calling won't expire just because we're dodging it.

How Do We Leave Midian?

1. Answer God's Call

Just like Moses at the burning bush, God is already trying to get your attention. He's showing up in your prayer life, your quiet time, maybe even through the words of this sermon. When He calls, stop making excuses and start saying yes!

2. Trust God Over Your Fears

Moses felt inadequate, but God reminded him that it wasn't about his ability; it was about God's power working through him. You don't have to have it all figured out. Whatever God calls you to, He will see you through.

3. Move, Even When It's Uncomfortable

Leaving Midian means stepping out in faith. It means leaving behind what's easy or

predictable and trusting that God's plans for your future are better than your plans for your present.

Family, here's the question for you today: **Why are you still in Midian?** God is calling you to step into more, to leave behind the excuses, the fear, and the comfort that's been holding you back. You don't belong in Midian. You belong in the place God has prepared for you. It's time to pack up, trust God, and leave Midian behind. **It's time to go!**

At some point, you have to stop praying about it and start walking in it. Moses couldn't stay in Midian forever. Similarly, you can't stay in a place of comfort when God has given you a calling. Say yes, step out, and trust that He'll equip you every step of the way.

This is where we decide if we're going to keep living in cycles of excuses or if we're ready to step into the freedom of obedience. Can I be honest with you? Excuses don't honor God. They sound good in our heads, they feel safe in our hearts, but they keep us stuck in the very places God is trying to pull us out of.

Maybe Midian has been your comfort zone. Maybe it's the place you've gotten too good at blending in, too used to playing it safe, too conditioned to settle for "good enough." But there is a burning bush moment happening right now! God is calling you. And He's not whispering an invitation; He's commanding you to move.

Listen to me. You can't keep asking God for more while refusing to move with what He's already given you. You're waiting for more resources. God says, "I've already given it." You're waiting for their approval. God says, "I already validated you." You're waiting for the "perfect moment." God says, "The moment is NOW."

Why are you still in Midian? Why are you still holding onto the excuses when God already promised to provide everything you need? You don't have to stay afraid; God said, "I'll go with you." You don't have to feel inadequate; God said, "I'll equip you." The question is not if God is able; the question is if you're willing to trust Him.

I'm challenging you right now to leave Midian behind. Pack up your doubts. Leave behind the need for approval. Stop holding on to fear like it's a lifeline when God's love has already cast it out. All He's asking from you is a yes. Will you give it to Him?

Today, I dare you to step out of your comfort zone and walk boldly into your calling. You don't know what's on the other side of your obedience, but I promise you this, God does. And what He has for you is bigger, better, and more beautiful than anything Midian could offer. It's time to stop making excuses, stop looking back, and start moving forward.

God isn't asking you to have all the answers; He's asking for your faith. He isn't focused on what you lack; He's focused on your heart. The bush is burning, y'all. The call is clear. Are you going

to stay stuck staring at what's in front of you, or are you going to take the next step into what God has prepared?

It's time to leave Midian. It's time to trust God. It's time to go!