

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Exodus 4

Exodus four records the agonizing story of Moses' questions and excuses as to why he should not be chosen; trying to dodge his calling until God's righteous anger flared. The chapter begins with another question. What if the people do not believe me? God then asked Moses a question, "What is in your hand?" Moses answered a rod. God told him to throw his rod to the ground and it immediately turned into a snake and Moses began to run away, but God told him to pick it up by its tail. The moment he did, it once again became a rod. God was telling Moses that He would be with Him and give him the ability to command the miraculous. God then asked him to put his hand inside his clothing on his chest, and then pull it out again. When he did, his hand was leprous. Repeating the action, he was whole again! Finally, God told Moses that he would be able to turn the life-giving water of the Nile River into blood. Moses told God that he was not a "man of words" but was a man who had "a heavy tongue." This is a Hebrew idiom for someone slow of speech or who is somewhat difficult to understand. Moses must have had a speech impediment of some sort, and this was an excuse he thought, not to follow God's instructions. God told Moses that He made his mouth and that He knew he had a speech impediment before Moses knew. Then Moses got to the heart of the matter. He didn't want to go. He asked God to get someone else. God was angered and said, "Your brother Aaron can speak well" I will get him to be your mouth. You will speak to him what I speak to you. He will be your spokesman. Moses accepted the call of God to deliver his people and immediately went back to his father-in-law Jethro and told him that he needed to go back to Egypt after forty years and check on his people. Jethro blessed Moses and said, "Go in peace." God again said to Moses, I am going to send you to Pharaoh to ask that the people be allowed to leave, and he will not let that happen. God told him

in advance the encounter would eventually lead to the death of the firstborn of Egypt if Pharaoh adamantly refuse to listen to God's demands. [Exodus 4:24-26 can be difficult to understand for the western mind. God had commanded Abraham to circumcise every male child as a sign of membership in the covenant family of God. When a male child is born to a Hebrew/Jewish family, the child is to be circumcised on the eighth day. Moses was trying to go about doing the will of God but had failed at the basic duty of circumcision of his son, Gershom.] Moses was acting as one who was not even a part of the covenant community and knew full well what he was doing. God wanted him to see the seriousness of the offense. Zipporah saw the seriousness of what was happening, took the boy, circumcised him herself, then threw the circumcised foreskin of their son at Moses feet, thereby saying, fulfill your covenant responsibility as a man!

Prayer and Action Steps

God has an assignment for every person who is a follower of Jesus, the Messiah. It is your responsibility to seek the face of God to know what that assignment and calling is. Once you know what God wants you to do, then by God's grace do it. God is not hiding His plan from us. You have taken the true first step in finding your place in God's Kingdom by reading God's Word each day. If you read His word with an open heart and an open mind, asking God to show you how to live and please Him, He will be faithful to you. Like Moses you must learn that you need to follow God in the things you know to do and then He will allow you to do more. Moses had not tended to his own household, and it nearly cost him his son's life. God's Word is a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path. Walk in the light you have, in obedience, and God will give you greater light.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
