

ESF, Lord's day service message
3/31/2019

Turning the Impossible into the Possible
Exodus 4:1-12

¹ Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?" ² Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. ³ The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. ⁴ Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. ⁵ "This," said the LORD, "is so 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." ⁶ Then the LORD said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was leprous, like snow. ⁷ "Now put it back into your cloak," he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh. ⁸ Then the LORD said, "If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first miraculous sign, they may believe the second. ⁹ But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground." ¹⁰ Moses said to the LORD, "O 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 man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD? ¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

A little boy was on summer holidays, and there was a circus in town. Every day he would hear the music of the parade coming down the street on which he lived, and he would race over to a

knothole in the front fence and look out. He was so excited to see the colors of circus performers, and the little glimpses he'd catch of the animals. But then on one of the days he woke up with a bad cold, and his mother confined him upstairs to bed and said he was not allowed outside to play. He was bitterly disappointed that he wouldn't be able to look out his knothole to see the parade again. Later in the day he heard the music as the circus began to come down his street again. All of a sudden, a thought occurred to him. If he climbed up on his desk, he might be able to see the parade from his bedroom window. Sure enough, when he climbed up he was startled by what he saw! because he now had a birds-eye view he could take in the whole parade in full! All that time he'd been straining through a knothole in the fence to see just a little bit, when he could have been seeing it all from a higher perspective.

When God wants to use us blessed way, He changes our perspective. When we see our difficult circumstances and feels impossible, God encourages us to see His almighty power and start seeing the possible.

God called Moses to go to Egypt to free the Israelites who were enslaved by Pharaoh. But Moses felt that the task was absolutely impossible for him to do. He had several reasons why it was impossible. First, he failed miserably in doing a similar task in the past. Secondly, he had no resources to accomplish the task-no army, no weapons. Third, he had no ability to do such a task – especially the ability of speech.

But God helped him overcome all those impossible reasons and start believing that he could turn the impossible into the possible.

In our lives, there may be some problems which are impossible for us to overcome. Here, God is teaching us how we can turn the impossible into the possible.

Give what you have to the almighty God

The first thing God did to turn Moses's impossibility into something possible was to let him experience His supernatural power. God encouraged Moses to start thinking, "*Wow, if God is with me with His supernatural power, I can do anything.*"

Forty years ago when he was living in Egypt as a prince, he made a big mistake. When he tried to help the oppressed Israelites, he killed an Egyptian man. He thought that the Israelites would respect him as a vindicator. But they did not. They revealed his crime of murder. He was betrayed and rejected by them. So, he had to flee from Egypt. He became a failure and a fugitive and lived in the desert for forty years. Although it happened forty years ago, Moses still felt the pain of his miserable failure.

The Israelites rejected him even when he tried to help them as a prince of Egypt. How then could he gain respect from them if he went back there as an old, poor shepherd?

So, when God told him to go back to Egypt to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt, he felt that he was completely inadequate. Moses expressed his feeling of inadequacy to God by saying, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?" (Ex 4:1)

When you have past failures, or have been deeply hurt by rejection and betrayal from people, you may lose confidence in yourself. You may have low self-esteem. You may feel that it is impossible for you to overcome your failure or to trust people again. So you may avoid people. You may live a passive life. You may avoid God's call for you to do something for others again.

But there is a way to regain your self-esteem. There is a way to regain confidence so that you can overcome failure. There is a way

to turn the impossible caused by your past failures into the possible.

God shows a way through Moses. When Moses expressed to God his feeling of inadequacy based on his past failure and his present poor condition, God performed two miracles for him.

The first miracle was with Moses' staff. God asked Moses what he had in his hand. Moses answered that he had a staff. And God told him to throw the staff on the ground. When Moses threw the staff on the ground, it turned into a snake. God told Moses to reach out his hand and take the snake by the tail. When Moses did as God told him to do, the snake turned back into a staff.

God also used Moses' hand to perform another miracle. God turned Moses healthy hand into a leprous hand, then turned it back into a healthy hand again.

God helped Moses experience God's miracles through what he had. God convinced Moses that although he is an old poor shepherd, God could use him in a mighty way. God convinced Moses that he could turn the impossible into the possible through God's almighty power.

From the moment God asked Moses, "What's in your hand," Moses' life was never the same again. That simple shepherd's staff became a tool by which God shook the foundation of the mighty Egyptian empire.

It is important to note that God did not ask Moses to bring what he did not have. God used what Moses had in his hand.

God uses what we have. God never demands us to bring what we do not have. When God wants to do great things, God uses our small, little and weak things. By doing so, He causes us to boast

not of ourselves but to boast about God (1 Corinthians 1:26-31).

When Samson gave what he had to God, a jawbone, God used it to kill a thousand men (Judges 15: 14-16). When the shepherd boy David gave God what he had, several smooth stones, God used them to kill the giant Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40-50). When a poor widow gave what she had, a little oil, to God, God turned it into abundant oil (1 Kings 17:1-16). When the disciples gave five loaves of bread and two fish to the Lord, the Lord turned them into more than enough food to feed five thousand people (John 6:1-13).

Try to find God's call for yourself and give to Him what you have. What is in your hand is what God needs. What is in your hand is what God will use (I Corinthians 12: 4-6). So, what do you have in your hand? There may be a small talent in your hand that God is waiting to use for His great task, to turn something impossible into the possible. God is asking you now. "What is that in your hand?" What talents, what small or little thing do you have? Can you cook? Play the piano? Do math? Hammer a nail? Strike up a conversation? Organize? Repair? Cut hair? Clean? Draw? Rock a baby?

Give it to God. Use it as God is telling you to use. God will enable you to experience miracles through what you have. And you can turn the impossible tasks in your life into many possibilities.

Trust God's perfect care for you when you follow His call

Although God showed Moses 2 miracles, Moses still doubted whether the Israelites would believe that he was sent by God. God told Moses that He would perform another miracle if the people would not believe him through those two miracles.

God would turn the water of Nile River into blood. The water of Nile River was the life line for the Egyptians. So if the water of

Nile turned into blood, their life line would be cut off. And they would recognize that God had sent Moses as His servant.

However, Moses had one more serious doubt about doing the task. It was that he was not a good speaker. He had lived as a shepherd in the desert for forty years. During all those years, he had never engaged in public speaking. So he felt that it was impossible for him to persuade either the Egyptian king Pharaoh or the Israelites. Moses said, *"O 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."*

But God told Moses, *"Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."*

By these words, God assured Moses that man's limitation or inability is not a problem for God. If God created his mouth, why couldn't God enable his mouth to speak well? As the creator of the mouth and tongue of every man, He can certainly enable His servant to speak what he has to speak. God assured Moses that God would take care of everything so that Moses could accomplish his task.

When you follow God's call, God always takes care of everything you need to accomplish His task. So while you are following God's call, trust in His perfect care and do not worry about financial needs, any physical needs or any other needs (Matthew 10:9; Luke 10:3-4).

In 1903, a young man in Chicago by the name of James invested 65\$ to buy a pony. He called the pony, "Paddy." Every day he loaded his wagon with cheese and he and Paddy drove down the streets of Chicago to sell his cheese. As the months passed, the

young man began to despair because he was not making any money, in spite of his long hours and hard work. One day he pulled his pony to a stop and began to talk to him. He said, "Paddy, there is something wrong. We are not doing it right. I am afraid we have things turned around and our priorities are not where they ought to be. Maybe we ought to serve God and place him first in our lives." The man drove home and made a covenant that for the rest of his life he would first serve God and then would work as God directed.

Many years after this, the man's business grew to be one of the biggest food companies in the world, called Kraft. At present, Kraft is the second-largest food company in the world with net revenues of \$34 billion and more than 94,000 employees in 70 countries. The man later on stood as Sunday School Superintendent at the North Shore Baptist Church in Chicago and said, "I would rather be a layman in the North Shore Baptist Church than to head the greatest corporation in America. My first job is serving Jesus." His name was James L. Kraft.

God doesn't look at man's inability, but always looks at the ability through His almighty power. Paul learned how to overcome his own sense of inadequacy through God's almighty power in 2 Corinthians 3:5-6; *Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit...*

Trust the Lord who helps you overcome all disabilities with the supernatural power and wisdom of His Spirit. Let us remember what God told Zerubbabel, "*Not by power or by might, but by my Spirit says the Lord, this mountain will be removed*" (Zech 4:6,7).

You can be confident of your competence by faith in the power of God in you. Instead of dwelling on your inadequacy, you should

put your trust in the ability of God. The same God who enabled Moses to be able to speak well before the Pharaoh and before millions of people, can enable you to accomplish His purpose.

So, stop looking at your disabilities. Hear God's call for you and follow the call. Look up to God's almighty ability to care for you. God takes no account of your abilities or lack thereof when it comes to Him displaying His power. He only sees your possibilities. What He looks for is people who are willing to accept God's almighty care to meet their needs.

When you follow God's call, He will surely take care of all your needs. If a miracle is necessary He will perform a miracle. If you need any talent or gift, He will provide it. He will enable you to turn an impossible task into a possible task.