



What Is That In Your Hand?

Exodus 3:13 – 4:5

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1. _____ of us has something of value to offer – something that can make this world a much better place; but like Moses we often make _____ why we cannot.

Excuse #1: I'm nobody.

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

Excuse #2: I don't know enough about God.

¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

Excuse #3: What happens if I fail?

¹ Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'"

Excuse #4: I don't have what it takes?

¹⁰ Moses said to the LORD, "Pardon your servant, 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."

Excuse #5: Someone else could do it better.

¹³ But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else."

- ✘ **Consider the question that God asks Moses in the midst of ALL of these excuses?**

² Then the LORD said to Moses, "What is **that** in your hand?" "A staff," he replied...

- 2. In the same way, God wants to _____ and what's in your hand to bring hope and healing to a hurting world.**

All of us have at least three things in our hands right now:

A. Our _____.

B. Our _____.

C. Our _____.

⁷ The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey...

... ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

THE MAIN POINT:

God has something beautiful in mind for you to do – that only you can do with your unique abilities, experiences and weaknesses – to bless others and help the kingdom of God become more real.

ANSWERING GOD'S QUESTION...

- Begin by being honest with God about some of the excuses you make when you sense God is calling you to make the world a better place.
- Then, imagine God talking with you as he did with Moses, "I promise to be with you. My presence and power will always be available to you. I can use whatever is in your hands if you bring it to me."
- Name your abilities and give thanks for them. Offer them to God. Tell God about the pain you've been through – you might find the seeds of the important things that God has for you to do. Above all, share your feelings of inadequacy because this is where you'll feel the most assured that you're relying on God and not yourself. Pray to God to help you step out in faith to be a blessing to others.



Doggy Bag: *Something to Chew On and Ponder Throughout the Week*

1. What is your favorite excuse to avoid the challenges of trying to make the world a better place?
2. Name one ability that others value and appreciate in your life.
3. Describe one resource that you bring to others because of your unique life experience?
4. Reread Exodus 3:1 – 4:17. What was the point of the miraculous signs? What effect do you think these miracles would have had on you if you had been in Moses' shoes?
5. How would you like to have God use you to make a creative difference in the world? What things make you reluctant to serve God more?