No Excuses—We Can Reach The Lost

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Category:

Liberty—Benjamin Lee

Introduction:

1. He is one of the greatest men that we read about in the Bible. He taught millions of people to follow, trust, and obey God. He was a man of great influence. If there was a Mount Rushmore for people in the Bible, he would be on it. Who was this man? His name is Moses. Yet, many might be surprised to learn that there was a time in his life when Moses did not want to be a leader. In fact, when God called him to go before Pharaoh, Moses gave God five excuses hoping to avoid this task, Exodus 3:10-4:1-10.

2. Sometimes, we can be like Moses. We can be leaders like him and we can be people who make excuses for not doing God’s work. Here is what I mean by that. God wanted Moses to lead His people out of physical bondage. God wants us to lead people out of the spiritual bondage of sin, Mark 16:15-16. But like Moses, sometimes we can make excuses to avoid this great work. Moses made excuses not because he didn't want to help his people. Rather, he made them because he lacked confidence in himself. This is often the case with some of us. We want to help others know about Jesus, but at times we lack confidence in ourselves. Because of this we can make excuses as to why we can’t do this great work. God wants us to know two things tonight. The first thing is that there are no excuses for us not reaching the lost. The second thing we need to know is that we can reach the lost. But for this to happen, we must have the confidence that we will succeed. When we do, more souls will be saved. Now I told you Moses gave God five excuses. The five excuses Moses used are common excuses Christians sometimes use. We need to find out what they are and then learn that we don’t need to make these excuses.

The Lesson:

I. Excuse #1: I am no one special.
A. Moses thought that he was no one special, Exodus 3:10-11.
   1. Moses did not think he was qualified to stand before the mighty Pharaoh. He thought he was no one special.
   2. God quickly eliminated this excuse Moses used. He gave Moses two promises.
      a. He told Moses that He would be with him. His presence would give Him the power he needed to stand before Pharaoh.
      b. He gave Moses a promise that one day His people would worship Him on the mountain of Horeb, Exodus 3:12.
   3. That’s how Moses would be successful and accomplish God’s mission.
B. Sometimes we can use the same excuse that prevents us from reaching lost souls.
   1. Maybe you view yourself as a person who will never be successful winning lost souls. If you have, God wants you to know that is not true. All of us can be used. As children of God, we are special, 1 Peter 2:9-10. Just as God gave Moses some promises to build His confidence, He has done the same for us. God promises to be with us at all times, Matthew 28:20. We are not alone as we attempt to convert souls to Jesus. He has given us what we need to be successful and qualified. He has given us His word. Our power to stand or approach others is found in the gospel message. God promises us that the gospel has the power to save souls, Romans 1:16. Therefore, we can and will be successful when we share it with others.
   2. God wants us to know that thinking we are not special is nothing but an excuse. We can be successful reaching the lost.

II. Excuse #2: I will not know how to answer their questions.
A. Moses was worried about what he would say to the people.
   1. Moses gave God another excuse. This time it was, “What if I can’t answer a question?” Exodus 3:12-19.
   2. Moses would quickly realize that this excuse would not stand with God. He would be supplied with the answers he would need to give to the people.
B. This is a common excuse we can sometimes use.
   1. Many people fear being in a Bible study and being potentially stumped by a question. This may happen sometime. But it does not mean we stop talking to people.
2. The truth is we have everything we need from God’s word to teach the lost, 2 Peter 1:3. Therefore, we can be confident going into any Bible study. Here’s why:
   a. We have the truth that will set men free from sin, John 8:32, 17:17.
   b. We have the complete revelation of God, Jude 3.
   c. We have the same message that has convinced millions of people to follow Jesus.
3. Our job is to be prepared for Bible studies. This is how we will eliminate the fear of not being able to answer a question. The truth is, many Christians worry about questions that are never asked. Sadly, this has caused some Christians to avoid certain studies.
4. God has armed us with everything we need. Therefore this is not an excuse. We can be successful saving lost souls.

III. Excuse #3: I do not think people will believe.
   A. Moses thought that some of the Israelites might not believe what he said about God.
      2. He was to continue on with his mission even if some did not believe.
   B. We can’t allow the doubt or rejection of truth by some to stop us from reaching the lost.
      1. Our job as Christians is to share the truth with others. When we plant and water God will give the increase, 1 Corinthians 3:6.
      2. Whether or not someone believes the gospel message is out of our control. But we must give people the opportunity and time to learn so that they can potentially make that important decision of following Jesus. The truth is there were some who rejected the message of Paul, Acts 13:45-46. This will happen to us. But it is not an excuse for not reaching the lost. We can be successful teaching those who are lost.

IV. Excuse #4: I am not a good speaker.
   A. Moses used the excuse that he was not a good speaker.
      1. Moses thought that his lack of eloquence as a speaker or teacher would get him out of this responsibility. He was wrong, Exodus 4:11-12.
      2. God destroyed this excuse by giving Moses the words to say and teach.
   B. This is one of the most common reasons why some avoid teaching others the gospel.
      1. It is not about how well we speak that will determine if someone comes to Jesus. I am not advocating that we reject normal English and speak in just any fashion. Rather, it is about the message we present, 1 Corinthians 2:4-5. Paul was just as effective as Apollos, even though Apollos was an eloquent speaker, Acts 18:24. That’s because Paul was preaching the gospel just like Apollos.
      2. Some may have better skills as a speaker but all of us can still be successful. This is no excuse for not reaching the lost.

V. Excuse #5: I am not as qualified as others.
   A. Moses did not want to go before Pharaoh and the children of Israel.
      1. Moses used his final excuse, Exodus 4:14. He thought God could find someone else better to do this job. This response angered God.
      2. But God didn’t give up on Moses. He allowed Aaron to go with him. But notice Moses was not off the hook. He still was to work.
   B. This may be the most common excuse we use.
      1. Have you ever thought that someone else is better equipped in soul winning than you could ever do? When people think like this they eventually convince themselves that reaching the lost is only for a select few. This is wrong. It is for all of us, Ephesians 4:16. Like Moses we may need to team up with someone to set up studies.
      2. But like Moses, God wants us to know that we still have a responsibility to fulfill.

Conclusion:
   1. Like Moses, God gets angry with us when we use excuses to avoid winning lost souls. He expects us as His children to bear fruit because He has supplied us with what we need.
   2. Moses began with excuses. But he ended up being a great servant of God. We can be the same. Let’s get rid of the excuses and know that we can win souls for King Jesus.