

Who, Me?

Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” (Exodus 3:11).

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-15

Song: “I Hear the Savior Calling”

Jono, an American high school student, stepped on the mission’s bus and called out, “I’m here!” Being young and not knowing the language of his Spanish-speaking audience would be daunting; he felt inadequate. But knowing God was with him, he later proceeded to share the gospel with the help of an interpreter. Through Jono’s witness, God changed hearts through the saving grace of Jesus.

God called Moses to go to Egypt for a daunting task. Moses’ response to God can be summed up in six words. First he said, “Here I am” (Exodus 3:4); Moses recognized God’s voice and was ready to listen. Then after hearing God’s directions, Moses said, “Who am I?” (v. 11). God responded to Moses’ insecurity by telling him, “I will be with you” (v. 12). God assured Moses that He would accomplish all that He called Moses to do.

We, too, may at times respond to God with those six words: “Here I am” and “Who am I?” Even when we are willing to obey, we may feel inadequate. Knowing we have a faithful God who promises to be with us gives us all we need to complete the task.

Father, I will move ahead in obedience today, knowing You are with me. In Jesus’ name, amen.

October 3–9. **Julia Taves** and her husband enjoy hiking and being with their grandchildren. She has served as principal of an international school in Africa and presently serves in the Dominican Republic.

Unforeseen Circumstances

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land (Exodus 14:21).

Scripture: Exodus 14:21-31

Song: “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”

Torrential rain pounded Julia’s vehicle as she drove home over the mountain pass. To the left, she caught site of movement. Mud and debris were cascading down the mountainside toward the road. As she prayed, she felt as though God was prompting her to keep going. Zooming forward, Julia escaped the worst of the slide as the road behind her was engulfed and buried. Full of gratitude, she proceeded down the mountain as a huge rainbow appeared, reminding her of God’s faithfulness.

Moses faced unforeseen circumstances when God chose him to lead the Israelites through the Red Sea. As Moses stretched out his hand over the waters, he may have been wondering how God would actually save His people in this way. However, Moses obeyed, and the Israelites saw God’s hand of protection displayed triumphantly. What an amazing thing for Moses and the Israelites—to realize God chose them as the recipients of His care, and in such a powerful way!

When God chooses us to lead others or to go through unforeseen circumstances, we can rest in knowing He will be faithful to give direction and wisdom. We may not always understand His ways, but trusting Him and obeying brings Him glory and honor.

Father, You are faithful to lead me in times of uncertainty. I trust You, and I am thankful for Your power and care in all circumstances. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Unusual Mission

[God] sent Moses his servant, and Aaron, whom he had chosen (Psalm 105:26).

Scripture: Psalm 105:26-27, 37-45

Song: “Hark! The Voice of Jesus Calling”

In 1895 an Irish girl embarked on a unique mission to Dohnavur, India. She spent over 50 years there, without furlough, working through Dohnavur Fellowship to provide a haven for many children facing a dire future. She encountered storms at sea, strange sicknesses, and cultural insecurities. You may have read her writings about these things, as well as about God’s constant guidance and the ways He provided wisdom, provision, and freedom from fear. Amy Carmichael’s tireless service and obedience to the Great Commission inspire Christians still today.

Moses and Aaron, sent by God to lead His people, must have grown weary at times as they served without a furlough. Yet they saw—and Moses recorded (example: Deuteronomy 1:1)—God’s miraculous wonders performed daily for His people. As God’s chosen leaders, their service has inspired people of faith throughout the ages to seek God’s wisdom, strength, protection, and provision—all the goodness and grace He pours out on those who serve Him.

As we serve the Lord, whether in familiar or unfamiliar places and circumstances, God will refresh and encourage us along the way, providing for us and working in our behalf, sometimes in unexpected ways. As we trust and follow Him, our lives can become an inspiration to others as God is glorified through us.

Father, as You call me to love and serve others, refresh me daily as I recall Your wonders so others will also know and follow You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Hearing but Not Listening

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion” (Hebrews 3:15).

Scripture: Hebrews 3:7-19

Song: “I Hear the Savior Say”

“Where are you, Milo?” I called. The little dog was in the yard but nowhere to be seen. Walking around, I encouraged him to come to me, but there was no response. I became concerned that he had run away and might be in danger. Then I saw him. He was crouched under the neighbor’s porch, hiding from me, not wanting to come inside. I realized, with disappointment, that Milo was hearing my voice yet chose to disobey.

Milo’s resistance made me think about my own response at times to hearing God’s voice. In Hebrews 3 we’re warned not to turn away when we know God is calling us to obey. A disobedient or hardened heart is sinful. And going our own way—away from God—brings pain, disappointment, and disconnection from God. Yet God in His goodness is consistently there for us, wanting to provide for us and keep us safe.

The Holy Spirit prompts us to listen to and obey God’s Word. The God of the universe longs to have a personal relationship with us and to keep us from sin’s destructive outcomes. What a joy it is to walk close to our Savior, daily listening to and confidently following His teachings and direction.

Father, it’s my desire to hear and obey Your voice each day. Help me by Your Spirit to have a tender heart to faithfully follow You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Give Me a Break

Let us . . . make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience (Hebrews 4:11).

Scripture: Hebrews 4:1-11

Song: “There Is a Place of Quiet Rest”

“You deserve a break today” was a McDonald’s ad campaign slogan that ran in the early 1970s. That phrase still prompts me to take time out to get necessary rest. Rest can come in all kinds of ways. For example, my husband and I have friends who enjoy going out to dinner for a break. We enjoy going for a rigorous hike in the mountains to be refreshed. Other people might relax by digging their toes into warm sand on the beach, playing with grandkids, or just reading a book in a hammock for the afternoon.

Relaxation from work and routine is very good, yet in Hebrews 4 we are reminded of a deeper rest in the peace of knowing God. He designed us to long for entering that true, eternal rest with Him. Walking with God in obedience gives us a spiritual rest that can be found only in Christ and the work He did on the cross (Matthew 11:28).

Sometimes it *is* tricky to find time to relax, even though we know it’s important to take a break. Spending time daily with God in His Word brings a special kind of rest and peace that refreshes the soul.

Father, thank You for rest You provide for my soul as I draw near to You daily. Thank You also for the rest that awaits me when I am with You in eternity. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Almost There

“See, I [God] have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land the LORD swore he would give to your fathers . . . and to their descendants after them” (Deuteronomy 1:8).

Scripture: Deuteronomy 1:1-8

Song: “When We All Get to Heaven”

“Are we there yet?” In years past, those were words my husband and I sometimes wished did not exist. When taking long road trips with our three young boys—even though the journey was filled with excitement and sometimes unexpected turns—those long stretches of riding in the car would drag on. But with all of us weary and sometimes even grouchy, our moods would quickly change—the boys squealing with delight—when the car rolled up to the long-awaited destination.

Moses and the Israelites must have felt so much relief upon hearing God’s directive to enter the land He had promised them. No more waiting. The long journey—including wandering and battles—had finally ended. They could now take possession of the land, settle into their new home, and enjoy what they had been anticipating for 40 years.

This journey of everyday life is filled with anticipation. When we know Jesus as our Savior, we can be assured of our final destination, be certain of the promise that the Lord is preparing a place for us in Heaven with Him (John 14:2-3). When we are finally home, our delight at seeing Jesus will be beyond compare.

Father, thank You for Jesus’ promise that He is preparing an eternal home for those who believe in You and in Him (v. 1). In Jesus’ name, amen.

A Thought to Ponder

The LORD's portion is his people. . . . He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye (Deuteronomy 32:9-10).

Scripture: Deuteronomy 32:3-14, 18

Song: "Abide with Me"

"That turtle is enormous!" a student exclaimed.

"Does anyone know anything about this turtle?" the docent asked the group of schoolmates who were visiting the zoo that day.

Adeline raised her hand, and after being called on, she offered, "He's always home."

The docent smiled and continued telling about the reptile.

Later the teacher pondered 8-year-old Adeline's insightful words. It was true that the turtle was created by God to always be secure. Having a shell to guard its body would surely make it feel at home.

God seemed to continually remind the people of Israel of His faithful protection, which was a special covering for them. God was there to guard, lead, and nourish them daily as they were abiding in Him.

God has promised His care to believers in Christ as well (Hebrews 13:5-6). He is present with us each day to lead, protect, and nourish. In this way, God's presence is like our continually being at home.

Father, it is good to know You abide with us. Thank you that we can rest in Your continual presence and covering. In Jesus' name, amen.