

## Exodus 4:1-17

### Smoky Row Brethren Church

October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

#### 1) Paul Lattimer

- Thank you for having me here today.
- I have the privilege of planting ChristCore Brethren Church in South Columbus where we live. We currently have 4 people in our Monday evening Life Group and are looking to connect with more.
- What's unique about ChristCore is that we are an experimental plant in that we're living the gospel within the heavy music subculture of people who like hard rock, metal, and hardcore music. We're doing the things any church would do, but we're putting them in a different (cultural skin) to hopefully reach people who wouldn't normally go to church by reducing cultural distance between them and the gospel.

#### 2) Context. EXODUS 4:1-17 (ESV)

- (using my own research, reading, experience and *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries Vol. 2, Exodus* by R. Alan Cole)
- Exodus is the second book of the Bible, and it's about the "going out" of the people of Israel from their slavery in Egypt. (It derives its English name from the Greek version of the Old Testament.)
- It fits within the wider narrative of the first 5 books of the Bible, and is part of God's story continuing to fulfill the promises that he gave to the Israelites in Genesis.
- \*\*\* Has anyone here received a promise from God that took years to fulfill? I know I have! 😊
- Moses was a murderer. That's not something we highlight as much, but it's part of his story. In chapter 2, he sees an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, and Moses kills him. When he learns that what he had done was not done in secret, he flees to Midian. Later, he encounters the angel of the LORD at the burning bush, and Moses' conversation that we're about to hear with God in chapter 4 is a continuation of the burning bush encounter.

#### 3) The passage. EXODUS 4:1-17 (ESV)

##### **Moses Given Powerful Signs**

4 Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The Lord did not appear to you.'" <sup>2</sup> The Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A staff." <sup>3</sup> And he said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. <sup>4</sup> But the Lord said to Moses, "Put out your hand and catch it by the tail"—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand—<sup>5</sup> "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." <sup>6</sup> Again, the Lord said to him, "Put your hand inside your cloak."<sup>[a]</sup> And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous<sup>[b]</sup> like snow. <sup>7</sup> Then God said, "Put your hand back inside your cloak." So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. <sup>8</sup> "If they will not believe you," God said, "or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign." <sup>9</sup> If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground."

<sup>10</sup> But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." <sup>11</sup> Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?" <sup>12</sup> Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." <sup>13</sup> But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." <sup>14</sup> Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. <sup>15</sup> You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. <sup>16</sup> He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. <sup>17</sup> And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs."

#### 4) The commentary. EXODUS 4 (ESV)

- vs. 1-9 God give Moses three tools to use if the Egyptians don't believe that God wants to let the Israelites go free. Some scholars think that God could have been manipulating natural elements in order to produce the signs. Other scholars think these 3 signs could be 'straight-up' miracles. Either way, God was doing something somehow, and the purpose of the signs was to foster belief (Cole 81). Staff -> Snake (and back). Hand -> Leprous (and back). And Nile water to blood.

- vs. 10-12 When Moses said he was "slow to speak," God did not say it wasn't true (Cole 81). You may have a perfectly valid reason why you don't believe you are best equipped to do what God wants you to do. But God made you! And He can give you to ability to overcome all challenges along the way if you are willing to go with Him.

- vs. 13-14 But when Moses didn't want to do what God asked him to do, that represented an apprehension to go along with God's plan. Was he scared? Nervous? Was he feeling unworthy? Regardless the reason, God stuck with Moses and offered him the tools to succeed, but when Moses repeated his plea for God to send someone else. God got upset with Moses!

- vs. 14-17 So God sent Moses' brother Aaron to go with Moses on this mission.

#### 5) Application. EXODUS 4 (ESV)

- God chose Moses to be his hands and feet in rescuing the Israelites. Likewise, I see that God wants to save the lost all over the world, *even those in the metal and hardcore music scene. He loves them too! :)*

- I'm not Moses, but I do want to share how God's using of Moses inspires my reading of the passage. As I share some thoughts about how Exodus 4 impacts my work with ChristCore, *I want you to think about too how Exodus 4's principles can apply to your life situation. Where has God equipped you in your job or interactions with family.*

- Vs. 1-9 God gave Moses tools to use (The staff, hand, and Nile water). He gave me some skills too: My voice that people made fun of growing up actually lends to me being able to do some of the "scream" vocal styles that we hear in Christian metal and hardcore music and want to use for our worship services. (No, I'm not doing them now because my daughter's sleeping! ;)

- Vs. 1-9 I also love metal and hardcore music. I've been around it for over 10 years now and even wrote my college thesis on it. Shameless plug: It's even on Amazon if you want to check it out! Just search my name Paul Lattimer or Sacred Metalcore. I'm familiar with the music and comfortable around the people. I'm able to be me more fully.

- Vs. 10-17 I love the idea of this church plant. I'm very passionate about it and excited to do it. So, for me, there wasn't really a moment of saying no to the concept, but there was a scary moment of physically leaving our apartment in Ashland, OH, to move here in Columbus. IDK if any of you are realtors or mortgage agents, but, if you're familiar with the house-buying process, you kinda need a job to not only pay for the mortgage, but you need steady income to even be approved for the loan! ASHLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT and ASHLAND CITY SCHOOLS. We bought our house in May with no real desire to keep our jobs in Ashland. We bought a home and moved here because we prayerfully felt that this calling was real. And God provided us with jobs in Franklin County within the months following our purchase of the home and quitting of our jobs in Ashland. *But that's something I only believe God is faithful to have happen when He is actually calling us to move somewhere. Ie, you don't get to be 'reckless' unless it's truly out of Faithfulness.*