

WHY ME, LORD?

Most of us have had to endure a situation or take on a responsibility that we really did not want to do. Sometimes these things are forced on us. When they happen, we might pray to God and ask Him, “Why me Lord”? There are several reasons we might ask such a question:

1. We might ask that question out of self-pity. For example, if we find ourselves in a situation where we have to help our parents out with some expense and we are footing most of the bill while our siblings are not helping out at all or very little, we might start feeling mistreated or taken advantage of instead of being thankful that we had the money to help out. Another example would be if an accident happens or someone gets sick and we seem to be the only one willing to take care of them, we might start feeling sorry for ourselves instead of being thankful that we can help. When these inconveniences pop up, they can rob us of our time and extra money we have for doing things for ourselves. If we have the attitude of self-pity, we will find ourselves saying, “Why me Lord”?
2. We might ask that question if we are the type that shies away from responsibilities. Perhaps the situation before us seems like more than we can handle. Maybe we feel unprepared and have no idea how to begin with the task and feel like we are going to fail. When we look at situations we are faced with in a negative way, anything slightly out of our comfort zone will cause us to say, “Why me, Lord” or “Why should I have to do this”?
3. We might ask that question if we think there are others that are more qualified to carry out the task or handle the situation better than we can. The problem is that we can always think there is someone better for the task at hand. If we can convince someone else to do it, we feel like we have gotten off the hook. However, if we cannot get someone else to take on our responsibility then we might ask “Why won’t they do it?” “Why, me Lord”?
4. We might ask that question if we feel overwhelmed by life and feel like some evil force is out to get us. When sickness, loss of loved ones, and great trials keep coming our way, again we may continue to moan, “Why me, Lord?”

It is not uncommon for people to cry out to God with the phrase “Why me, Lord?” Let’s take a look at some Biblical examples of those that did so and let’s see what we can learn from them.

Moses is our first example. Read Acts 7:22-29.

Acts 7:22 "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds. ²³ "Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. ²⁴ "And seeing one of *them* suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the

Egyptian. ²⁵ "For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand. ²⁶ "And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and *tried to* reconcile them, saying, 'Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?' ²⁷ "But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?' ²⁸ 'Do you want to kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?' ²⁹ "Then, at this saying, Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons.

What do we learn from verse 22? _____

What are some things we learn from verses 23-29? _____

In verse 22, we learn that Moses had a great life in Pharos' household. He could have kept living the good life without even considering his people. Many times people only consider their circumstance and show no care for anyone else, but this should not be the case. Paul certainly teaches us a different standard in Philippians 2:1-5.

It is implied that Moses learned about his people and God most likely from his mother. However he learned about them, we can see in verses 23-29 that he cared for his people and went to go see them. When he saw one of them suffering under the hard hand of an Egyptian, he killed him. We can find this event being told in Exodus 2, but what I find interesting is verse 25. Verse 25 is not found in the Exodus account, but what it tells us is that Moses thought this was the way God would deliver his people from the Egyptians. We have little to go on here because we do not know how Moses arrived at this thought. There are some speculations about it, but no one knows for sure. However, the point I want to make is that in this instance Moses made a decision and did not hesitate to defend his fellow Jew. It seems to me that he was ready and willing to stand up side by side with his people and fight against the Egyptians. The next day when he saw two of his own people fighting, he realized they did not want to have anything to do with him and they knew about what he did to the Egyptian. According to Exodus' account, the Pharaoh wanted to put him to death. So, he ran away to save his life.

For the next 40 years Moses lives in Midian as a husband and shepherd. Read Exodus 3:1-10

Exodus 3:1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush *was* not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." ⁴ So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then He said, "Do not draw near this place.

Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." ⁶ Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father -- the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. ⁷ And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. ⁸ "So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. ⁹ "Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ "Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

What do we learn from Exodus 3: 1-10? _____

In these verses, we learn that Moses was correct in that God was going to use him to deliver His people, but it was going to be a different way than a physical battle between Jew and Egyptian. God had heard the prayers of His people and now at the age of 80, He wants Moses to go talk to the new Pharaoh so that he will let God's people go.

What is Moses' response in Exodus 3:11? _____

Exodus 3:11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

What is the difference in Moses' attitude in Exodus 3:11 versus Acts 7:25? _____

Do you see the contrast in his response as opposed to his attitude he had 40 years before according to Acts 7: 25? In Acts 7:25 he was confident. In Exodus 3:11 he has lost his confidence.

What happens when people have a lack of confidence in themselves to carry out a task for God?

What was God's response in Exodus 3:12? _____

Exodus 3:12 So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

Moses and every Christian should realize that God is always with us no matter what. That should be enough to give us the strength and courage to press on, but sometimes not even that will work for us and we will begin make excuses of why we should not be the one to carry out the task. Moses did this.

What is Moses' 1st excuse (Exod. 3:13)? _____

Exodus 3:13 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* His name?' what shall I say to them?"

What is God's response (Exod. 3:14)? _____

Exodus 3:14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

What is Moses' 2nd excuse (Exod. 4:1)? _____

Exodus 4:1 Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.' "

What is God's response (Exod. 4:2-6)? _____

Exodus 4:2 So the LORD said to him, "What *is* that in your hand?" He said, "A rod." ³ And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. ⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take *it* by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), ⁵ "that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you." ⁶ Furthermore the LORD said to him, "Now put your hand in your bosom." And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand *was* leprous, like snow.

What is Moses' 3rd excuse (Exod. 4:10)? _____

Exodus 4:10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I *am* slow of speech and slow of tongue."

What is God's response (Exod. 4:11-12)? _____

Exodus 4:11 So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? *Have* not I, the LORD? ¹² "Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

What is Moses' 4th excuse (Exod. 4:13)? _____

Exodus 4:13 But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever *else* You may send."

What is God's response (Exod. 4:14-17)? _____

Exodus 4:14 So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. ¹⁵ "Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. ¹⁶ "So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. ¹⁷ "And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs."

Do you think God will accept our excuses for not doing His will or doing what we can to help His kingdom grow? _____

Once Moses' stopped having the attitude, "Why me, Lord?" and started moving forward with God's plan, what was the result?

If we will stop saying, "Why me, Lord?" and will start moving forward with whatever situation we are faced or with whatever responsibility we are given don't you think we will be better off? _____

Gideon is another good example for us to examine. Read Judges 6:12-14.

Judges 6:12 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD *is* with you, you mighty man of valor!" ¹³ Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where *are* all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." ¹⁴ Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

What do we learn from Judges 6:12-14? _____

How is Gideon's response similar to Moses' (Jud. 6:15)? _____

Judges 6:15 So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan *is* the weakest in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house."

What did the AOTL tell him (Jud. 6:16)? _____

Judges 6:16 And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

Was what the AOTL said enough for Gideon (Jud. 6:17-24)? _____

Judges 6:17 Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. ¹⁸ "Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set *it* before You." And He said, "I will wait until you come back." ¹⁹ So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought *them* out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented *them*. ²⁰ The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay *them* on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. ²¹ Then the Angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that *was* in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the LORD departed out of his sight. ²² Now Gideon perceived that He *was* the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face." ²³ Then the LORD said to him, "Peace *be* with you; do not fear, you shall not die." ²⁴ So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it *The-LORD-Is-Peace*. To this day it *is* still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

We learn that Gideon had enough confidence in God from this sign to go tear down the idol of Baal, but was he confident enough to go fight against the Midianites (Jud. 6:30-40)? _____

Judges 6:36 So Gideon said to God, "If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said -- ³⁷ "look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and *it is* dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said." ³⁸ And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water. ³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew." ⁴⁰ And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.

While God did give Him three signs to prove that He was with him, this is not the norm. I am thankful the God erased all His doubts, but it is shame that the word from the Lord was not enough for Him.

How many times do we find ourselves being like Gideon wanting proof from God that we should carry out His will? _____

This is just another form of making excuses. God did not allow Gideon to have an excuse and He also made it clear that the only reason Gideon and his men were able to defeat the Midianites was because God made it possible. This is what we must realize. When we accomplish something great for the Lord, it is because He made it possible for us.

There are several other examples we could look at from the Bible, but these are enough to show us that when life presents its challenges, which most of the time turn out to be opportunities, let us be slow to complain and not give excuses for not wanting to deal with the situation before us. Let us not say, "Why me, Lord?" Instead, let us say things like:

Isaiah 6:8 "Here *am* I! Send me."

Philippians 4:12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Adapted in part from A MEDLEY OF TOPICS by Willard Conchin.

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