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Bermuda Hundred UMC

January 30, 2016

Dare to Dream Sermon Series

Exodus 4: 1-5; Acts 7: 1-53

“What’s in Your Hand?”

Last week – worship

Sermon—we focused on how Moses encountered God, God had seen and heard the pain, oppression, and suffering of his people- and now God had a way to help --- it involved Moses!

How did Moses feel about that?

What did he have to lose?

Excuses...

Why do we make excuses?

How many times have you heard someone say—“Somebody should really do something about ____.”

Really it can be anything...

It could be the pothole on the street.....

Or the kids you see in the neighborhood who seem to have no one watching

Or the woman who walks to the pharmacy counting out change to get her prescription...

It starts with noticing.... We see something- like God saw the suffering of His people and he sent Moses.

We often see things... but acting on the call we feel.... That’s often even more difficult than discovering the dream.

Thomas Edison once said, “Vision without implementation is hallucination.”

When God has given us dreams and visions—they are meant for much more than just seeing them—they’re meant for daring to do them!

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody’s job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn’t do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

You’ve probably see this one before, but behind the play on words, there is some great career advice. David’s email reminded me once again of the importance of taking personal responsibility for your career success.

If you want to create the life and career success you want, don’t be like Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. Be true to yourself. Take responsibility for your life and career success. Don’t let Everybody, Somebody, Anybody or Nobody stop you from doing what you need to do to create the life and career success you want and deserve.

Why do we make excuses?

“We downsize our dreams when we look only through human eyes, seeing obstacles, and perceived lack of resources.”

A God dream – is an impossible dream because *you* – can’t do it---

God does it through you

What is something you once did, once got through—and it seemed impossible at the time?

Why do we make excuses??

Do we dream – thinking --- “What can I do?”

We don’t ask- “What can God do?”

What question do we ask—What can I do- or What can God do in me?

God is asking questions too—

God asked Moses—“What in your hand?”

What was in Moses’s hand?

A Shepherd’s Rod

And God said- throw it down.

It turned into a snake—Moses jumped from it—God used this simple tool and when Moses threw it down God could use it.

But Moses tried to run from it.

How often do we back fearfully from what God wants to do in our lives?

Have you ever thought of running from something? From a dream- a challenge from God?

Like Moses- we tend to focus on what we are lacking—

In God- -you have been given everything you need.

All the resources required are already given to you.

Jesus gives these instructions to the disciples as he is sending them out, “Take nothing for the journey except a staff- no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic.”

This is it—this is all they take—

And what did they do—

“They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed them many sick people with oil and healed them.”

Where did they go? How did they Survive?

God led them— wherever they went

Jesus said, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave....”

They had all they needed for their journey—Jesus.

Like Moses- they had a staff.

What’s in Moses’s hand? A staff.

What good is a staff? It’s just an ordinary shepherd’s tool .

What does it do?

The terrain as a shepherd is hazardous – the staff was used by the shepherd to brace herself.

Life—too can be a hazardous terrain to navigate.

The staff holds us up.

The staff is a weapon—a tool of protection= against wolves, hyenas, robbers

With the crook of the staff- the shepherd guides the sheep – The shepherd can catch the curve right around the neck- not harming the sheep—but guiding it to go the right way.

The staff can carry a lantern to guide the path—it can hold the light and at night the light can hang from it and shine for all the camp.

Moses went from a prince- with every resource at his fingers- to the pasture—with a staff as his only tool.

And yet—God worked through that staff in Moses' hand – to fulfill a mission

God used that staff in Moses's hand to intimidate Pharaoh, part the sea, lead the people through the wilderness, and bring water from a rock

Well- what's in your hand?

What has God placed there to be used for His dream for you?

What's in your head, heart, and hands?

All we need to do is release it—throw it down for God's purposes—

Surrender what is in your head, your heart, and your hands – to the power of God to use them for the dream God has for you.

We have all we need—head- heart – hands—

What are the gifts of your head?

What do you know a lot about? What have you experienced and learned?

What are the gifts of your hands? What do you do really well?

What is the passion of your heart?

Example of Car ministry...

Bike ministry- Edgewater UMC—near Dad

Pray