

## **Exodus 4:18-31**

### ***Help For The Journey Ahead***

October 18, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

**Exodus 4:18** - So Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, “Please let me go and return to my brethren who are in Egypt.”

*William Murray: “Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamt would have come his way. I have learned a deep respect for one of Goethe's couplets: Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it!”*

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### **Gift #1 - A fresh start**

**v. 19** - Now the Lord said to Moses in Midian, “Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead.”

**2 Cor. 5:17** - If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away, all things are made new.

**Psalm 103:12** - As far as the east is from the west so far He has removed our transgressions from us.

**Lamentations 3:22-23** - God's mercies are new every morning...

**v. 20** - Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand.

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'Twas battered and scarred,  
And the auctioneer thought it  
hardly worth his while  
To waste his time on the old violin,  
but he held it up with a smile.

"What am I bid, good people", he cried,  
"Who starts the bidding for me?"  
"One dollar, one dollar, Do I hear two?"  
"Two dollars, who makes it three?"  
"Three dollars once, three dollars twice, going for three,"

But, No,  
From the room far back a gray bearded man  
Came forward and picked up the bow,  
Then wiping the dust from the old violin  
And tightening up the strings,  
He played a melody, pure and sweet  
As sweet as the angel sings.

The music ceased and the auctioneer  
With a voice that was quiet and low,  
Said "What now am I bid for this old violin?"  
As he held it aloft with its' bow.

"One thousand, one thousand, Do I hear two?"  
"Two thousand, Who makes it three?"  
"Three thousand once, three thousand twice,  
Going and gone", said he.

The audience cheered,  
But some of them cried,  
"We just don't understand."  
"What changed its' worth?"  
Swift came the reply.  
"The Touch of the Masters Hand."

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"And many a man with life out of tune  
All battered and bruised with hardship  
Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd  
Much like that old violin

A mess of pottage, a glass of wine,  
A game and he travels on.  
He is going once, he is going twice,  
He is going and almost gone.

But the Master comes,  
And the foolish crowd never can quite understand,  
The worth of a soul and the change that is wrought  
By the Touch of the Masters' Hand.

- Myra Brooks Welch

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### **Gift #2 -A challenge**

**v. 21-23** - And the Lord said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I've put in your hand. But I'll harden his heart, so that he won't let the people go. Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Israel is My son, My firstborn. So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I'll kill your son, your firstborn.”’”

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#### **Gift #3 - Correction**

**v. 24** - And it came to pass on the way, at the encampment, that the Lord met him and sought to kill him.

**v. 25-26** - Then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son cast it at Moses' feet, and said, "Surely you're a husband of blood to me!" So He let him go. Then she said, "You're a husband of blood!"—because of the circumcision.

**Genesis 17** - God said to Abraham, "You must keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you... Every male among you must be circumcised... It will be the sign of the covenant between Me and you... If any male is not circumcised, he will be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

**Romans 2:28-29** - Circumcision isn't merely outward and physical... Circumcision is circumcision of the heart by the Spirit.

**Hebrews 12:6** - The Lord corrects/disciplines the one He loves, and He chastens everyone He accepts as His child.

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#### **Gift #4 -Fellowship**

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**v. 27** - And the Lord said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and kissed him. So Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord who had sent him.

**v. 28-31** - Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord who had sent him, and all the signs which He'd commanded him. Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. And Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people. So the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel and that He'd looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.

**Ecclesiastes 4:11-12** - If two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

<sup>18</sup> **So Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to**

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him, “Please let me go and return to my brethren who are in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive.” And Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.”<sup>19</sup> Now the Lord said to Moses in Midian, “Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead.”<sup>20</sup> Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand.<sup>21</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.<sup>22</sup> Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Israel is My son, My firstborn.”<sup>23</sup> So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.’”

<sup>24</sup> And it came to pass on the way, at the encampment, that the Lord met him and sought to kill him.<sup>25</sup> Then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son and cast it at Moses’ feet, and said, “Surely you are a husband of blood to me!”<sup>26</sup> So He let him go. Then she said, “You are a husband of blood!”—because of the circumcision.

<sup>27</sup> And the Lord said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and kissed him.<sup>28</sup> So Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord who had sent him, and all the signs which He had commanded him.<sup>29</sup> Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel.<sup>30</sup> And Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people.<sup>31</sup> So the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.

**William Murray:** *“Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamt would have come his way. I have learned a deep respect for one of Goethe's couplets: Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it!”*

Gift #1 - \_\_\_\_\_

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Gift #2 - \_\_\_\_\_

Gift #3 - \_\_\_\_\_

**Genesis 17** - "You must keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you... Every male among you *must* be circumcised... It will be *the sign of the covenant between Me and you*... If any male is not circumcised, *he will be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.*"

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