



“Lose Your Big Buts – Allow God’s strength to be displayed in your weakness”

A message from
Reverend Kermit Culver
Sakakawea
District Superintendent

God has a dream for every one of us. Fulfilling that dream often begins by writing it down, distilling it down, paring it down, to a succinct statement or definition that guides the way we live our lives. A few years ago I went through a process of discerning my personal mission statement. Here it is: "Empowering people to authentically love God." With all the other tasks and duties associated with being a Pastor/DS; what gets my life juices flowing, is helping people connect to their own God-given "Burning Bush".

God calls all of us. I'm not just talking about a "Call to Full or Part time "Ministry" - I'm talking about how God calls us as part of the created order. Every one of us has some calling on our life, to improve the lives of others, to love and serve others, to make a difference in the world, and to make the world different. Your calling may not be to preach, it may be to become the lead cheerleader on your Pastor's Encouragement Team. Your calling may be to model faithfulness in your life and marriage, for generations coming after you. Your job may be to lead by example in the ways of generosity. I don't know what your particular calling may be - but I do know that God has called all of us to do something for God, and for the rest of Humanity.

Unfortunately many of us dismiss the call of God on our lives because of some ill-timed and inappropriate excuses (our big 'butts') we wrongly think will persuade God to just go on to the next person. Not true. The story of God's call on Moses begins with a 2nd chapter debate between God and Moses about why Moses thinks he's unfit to fulfill God's calling. Lets look at Moses "big butts": Moses' five Excuses in Exodus 3-4. With each of these excuses, God answers Moses. God doesn't always answer me so "verbally or audibly" but God answered Moses, and we'll consider those as well.

1. I'm not qualified. This may be one of your excuses - in fact it should be! If we somehow think that serving God by answering God's calling is something we can easily or simply do - well, then I think our understanding of God and God's ministry may be too small. Friends, our calling is not ultimately about us either, it's about the God who calls, and promises to be with us.

2. I'm spiritually unfit. Moses claims he doesn't know enough, he's not 'spiritual' enough, he doesn't know the Bible well enough, he's not a leader, he's spiritually unfit. God responds, "You don't need to know all the right answers, Moses, you just need to know Me - the God who IS!"

3. No one will believe me. This objection is really one of self-doubt. God's call gets to the heart of our being, and often reveals our lack of confidence, and lack of trust. If God has called us - we can rest assured God will provide all we need to get the job done.

4. I Can't Speak Well. Moses may have been a stutterer. Friends don't overlook the almost absurd irony of God's call; which is often to something we have been convinced we are incapable of doing, because God wants to demonstrate God's strength THROUGH our weakness.

5. Please Send Someone Else. In one last desperate plea, Moses asks to get out of this calling - and notice - God agrees, but not altogether. God says we'll use your brother Aaron to be your mouthpiece, but I'm still going to use you to receive my Message, and demonstrate my power. I'll speak to you, you to Aaron, and Aaron will speak to the people. Here is the point - God is not going to let you out of your calling. NO matter how good or many excuses we think we have - God will always find a way to fulfill God's plan and purpose.

We might think we can run or get away - but our excuses fall on deaf ears to God. I heard it said once that: Excuses are like Arm Pits - "Everybody's got a couple, and most of them stink". I think it's true. And so does God.

Don't sell yourself short. God has called you, and God will provide everything you need to get the job done. We all have to answer, no excuses, no big butts!