

Starting in Exodus 3:7, God explained that He has heard the cries of His people, who were trapped in slavery to the Egyptians, and He planned to use Moses to deliver His people.

- In Exodus 4:1, Moses answers God by asking, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me...?” Has a “What if...” ever made you choose to do or not do something you now regret?

- God immediately commanded Moses to reach for his staff (see Exodus 4:2).

- Turn to your neighbor and say: “Hey neighbor, I don’t know what you are going through, I don’t what you are

dealing with, but God told me to tell you: Handle It!”

perhaps God wanted to show Moses, “Everything you need is within reach.”

Have you ever asked God to give you something that He was trying to get you to see that you already have?

- Having been seen killing an Egyptian and in trouble with Pharaoh, Moses fled to Midian and ultimately

became a shepherd (see Exodus 2:11-17). Therefore, Moses’ staff was also symbolic of the past that Moses had run from.

- What from your past has God used as a means of bringing out your potential?

God promised to handle Moses’ enemies as he did what the Lord called him to do (see Exodus 3). Sometimes, God will just handle your situations in ways that you don’t even know how to explain.

- Recall the movie Castaway, Tom Hanks’ only friend was a volleyball called Wilson. When we become so attached to something inanimate, it becomes life-like to us. This is how things are with Moses.

- In Ex 4, Moses is starting to know more about his staff.

- We know what this staff is going to do later in Exodus.

- Do you realize how God can direct the elements of your life on your behalf?

- See other works with Moses staff in EX chapter 7, 14, and 17.

- When Moses staff was used in the right way, the Hebrew people were saved.

- Often it is the support system that you don’t see that produces the results that you can see.

- There is also a staff in your hands.

- Key take away: Everything that you need is within reach.

- When have you seen God do that in your life?

- We may wish God would handle all our situations quickly and easily, but He doesn't always do it.
Pastor

Steven preached, "The process of maturing in faith is not that God makes my load lighter, but that He shows me how to handle it."

- What are you asking God for help to handle right now? Share what fears you're facing as you ask for His help to handle it.
- Many dreams have died when we ask "What If They . . . "? This is called "fears greatest hit." How many anxious nights have you had when you asked "What if they . . . ? Many of us wonder this question: what if they say this about me?

three levels of fear, "Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway":

- o Fearing events (tragic events, action steps you hope you never have to take)
- o Fearing different states of mind (fear of regret, rejection, embarrassment, etc.)
- o Fearing that you can't handle what you're facing.

Exodus 4:19-20: 19 Now the Lord said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead." 20 So Moses took his wife and his sons and mounted them on a donkey, and returned to the land of Egypt. Moses also took the staff of God in his hand.

Exodus 7:15: 15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he is going out to the water, and station yourself to meet him on the bank of the Nile; and you shall take in your hand the staff that was turned into a serpent

Exodus 14:16: 16 As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land

Exodus 17:5: 5 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

Exodus 17:9: 9 So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand."

God has a strange way of handling things. He commanded Moses to take the snake by the tail, even though that would leave the head free to bite Moses. What are you afraid might happen by reaching for the thing you're running from?

- You will be looking at the city of Jericho and ask God for a demolition ball in order to knock down walls – And God will give you a trumpet.
- God will tell you to go borrow jars in order to pay off debts.
- God is handling it and you do not even know it – because you have never seen it handled this way.
- God defeats death on a cross – the thing that symbolizes man's most violent nature.

- What started as the thing that Moses feared (a snake) became the thing that Moses needed the most – the staff.
- Have you ever had a situation in your life where you were having a pity party about your past – and here comes Jesus – when you are ready to come back in – know that the matter is handled. Come back in now know that the matter is handled – Jesus was not dying on a cross, he was creating a path for you that leads to your freedom from sin.
- Philippians 4:13: 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.
- God wants to help you handle it. And God will not help you handle something that you run from.
- The staff only works when it is in Moses' hand. Moses has reach for the one thing that he has been running from.

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It is not the stress that you have that is important. It was how you handle the stress that you have that is important. Stress is typically the result of not handling some other aspect of your life.

Faith does not remove the weights (load) from your life, it shows you how to handle it.

Closing Prayer: As God said to Moses, “This is so 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.”

Lord, help us to take what we've discussed and put it into practice. We believe that with your power at work within us, we can handle our fears. Give us the courage to “take it by the tail” and the trust to believe that you will turn our fears into something you can use as proof of your power. We believe that people will see you through us. In Your name we pray, Amen.