



But Moses said to the Lord, “O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” The Lord said to him, “Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.” But Moses said, “O my Lord, please send someone else.” (Exodus 4:10-13)

I thought about Moses when I was listening to a podcast by Tim Kight, who is a leadership consultant for major corporations and big-time college athletic programs. Kight was interviewing Micky Marotti, the head strength and conditioning coach at THE Ohio State University. Their primary topic of conversation, and the title of the podcast, was “Say ‘Yes’ to the Hard Things.” That may seem counterintuitive to many of us because we’ve learned that most of the “hard things” we encounter in life cause pain, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual. As a result, our brains send up a warning flare. Like Moses, we hope and pray that God will “send someone else,” so we might be removed from the situation.

But Coach Mick’s perspective is that it is precisely in the midst of the hard things where growth takes place. It’s where character is developed. And so instead of running away it’s better to embrace the difficulties of life, knowing that we will be shaped and molded in ways that will make us stronger. That makes a lot of sense coming from a strength and conditioning coach, whose primary responsibility is challenging athletes to push themselves beyond their often self-imposed physical limits. But does it apply to other areas of life?

I would suggest that it does. I would even go so far as to say that God is always challenging us - like God did with Moses - to embark on journeys into uncharted territory. Maybe it’s in an encounter with someone who doesn’t share our political viewpoint. Or maybe it comes when we face an unexpected serious illness. It could be a faith crisis, when we begin to doubt something we have believed our whole lives. Or the death of a loved one. Or a true test of patience and perseverance. I think part of God’s plan for human life is to make us uncomfortable, not because God enjoys seeing us in pain, but rather because God wants us to become stronger, wiser, and more resilient.

Think about the last time you faced a challenging situation that made you uncomfortable. Did you speak the words of Moses, “O my Lord, please send someone else?” Or did you say “yes” to it, and lean into it with the understanding that God would not only be present with you in the midst of it, but also had something new waiting for you on the other side of it?

What distress are you experiencing right now? Do you trust that God is with you? Are you faithfully praying for an open heart and mind, knowing that God has something to teach you, and that God is forming you into a new creation? Are you saying “yes” to the hard things?

Pastor Chuck

Creator God, you are continually placing new challenges in our paths. Help us to say “yes” to these often uncomfortable situations, and to trust that we are being made new. Forgive us when we ask you to “send someone else,” and give us the courage to embrace those things we find difficult. Amen