



## Part 2: The Throw Down

Pastor Grant Fishbook

January 22 & 23, 2011

### The Call of Moses

"So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." – *Exodus 3:10*

#### The Excuses

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" – *Exodus 3:11*

**Excuse: I'm a nobody.**

Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'" – *Exodus 4:1*

**Excuse: I'm not convincing.**

Moses said to the LORD, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." – *Exodus 4:10*

**Excuse: I can't talk.**

But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else." – *Exodus 4:13*

**Excuse: I don't want to.**

#### Our Excuses to Delay Dealing with the Hard Stuff

- I don't have time
- It's too hard
- What will people think?
- I just don't want to

#### A Confrontation on the Road Out

Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'"

Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?"

"A staff," he replied.

The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground."

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. "This," said the LORD, "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." – *Exodus 4:1-5*

#### What does the staff represent?

The way Moses sees himself: as just a shepherd.

**What does God ask Moses to do with the staff? Throw it down.**

**What does Moses pick up? The new identity God has given him: the leader on the road out.**

*(Continues on back)*

## The Result of this Crucial Confrontation

Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, and they believed. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped. – *Exodus 4:29-31*

I acknowledge that I am in captivity to \_\_\_\_\_

Today, I see myself as \_\_\_\_\_

## Next Steps

**Baptism:** If you've started a new life with Jesus Christ but haven't been baptized yet, be sure to attend one of the baptism classes this weekend at either campus. Full details are in the Classes & Workshops section of What's Happening. Grab one in the Commons today.

**Recovery Classes:** At CTK, we view recovery as our common journey, because we believe everyone has been held captive at one time or another by our sins or sins against us. Five new recovery classes started last week but it's not too late to join if you **register today at the Connection Point:**

- **Stand Firm** (for men) Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 PM
- **12 Steps: A Spiritual Journey** Monday, 6:30-8:00 PM
- **Safe People** Mondays, 6:30-8:00 PM
- **Imago Dei** Mondays, 6:30-8:00 PM
- **Invaded Lives** (for women) Wednesdays, 10 AM - Noon

Read all the details in What's Happening under Recovery Classes and Classes for Women or at [www.ctkbellingham.com/recovery](http://www.ctkbellingham.com/recovery).

### Small Group Questions



- 1) What character qualities do you look for in someone that you are following? (a boss, a mentor, a pastor, a group leader)
- 2) Do you consider yourself a leader? Why or why not? Did you hear any excuses in your answer?
- 3) Can you add any other common excuses to Grant's list that people use to delay working on the hard stuff in their lives?
- 4) Is there something God is asking you to throw down today? What is it? Is there something he's asking you to pick up? What is it?
- 5) Have you sensed that God was showing his concern for you this past week? In what ways?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?