



AUTUMN
DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS
Carstairs-Bancroft United Church
October 18, 2023



Photo: Our Daily Bread

WHO AM I?

God said, "I will be with you."
Exodus 3:12

READ Exodus 4:1-5

Kizombo sat watching the campfire, pondering the great questions of his life. What have I accomplished? he thought. Too quickly the answer came back: Not much, really. He was back in the land of his birth, serving at the school his father had started deep in the rainforest. He was also trying to write his father's powerful story of surviving two civil wars. Who am I to try to do all this?

Kizombo's misgivings sound like those of Moses. God had just given Moses a mission: "I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt" (Exodus 3:10). Moses replied, "Who am I?" (v. 11).

After some weak excuses from Moses, God asked him, "What is that in your hand?" It was a staff (4:2). At God's direction, Moses threw it on the ground. The staff turned into a snake. Against his instincts, Moses picked it up. Again, it became a staff (v. 4). In God's power, Moses could face Pharaoh. He literally had one of the "gods" of Egypt—a snake—in his hand. Egypt's gods were no threat to the one true God.

Kizombo thought of Moses, and he sensed God's answer: You have Me and My Word. He thought too of friends who encouraged him to write his father's story so others would learn of God's power in his life. He wasn't alone.

On our own, our best efforts are inadequate. But we serve the God who says, "I will be with you" (3:12).

By **Tim Gustafson**

PRAY & REFLECT

Father, with You I lack nothing, no matter the situation. Amen

What do you have that God can use? How might it encourage you to consider what He might do with you?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

Exodus 3:1-4:17 tells how God called Moses to deliver His people from Egyptian bondage. Moses protested, giving various excuses for why he was unfit for the job. He doubted his own identity and ability (3:11) and his lack of authority (v. 13). In chapter 4, Moses gave his third excuse: the lack of legitimacy and credibility (v. 1). Having been rejected by the Israelites forty years earlier (2:11-14), Moses argued that they wouldn't believe that he was now divinely commissioned (4:1). To authenticate his commission, Moses was to offer three signs: a rod becoming a snake (vv. 2-5), his hands turning leprous (vv. 6-7), and water turning to blood (v. 9). These signs prefigured the realms of the plagues - blood (7:19), animals and insects (8:2-4, 16, 21; 9:3), and diseases (9:9) - that God would bring upon the Egyptians so that they too would know that He was the true God (7:5). – By **K. T. Sim**

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