

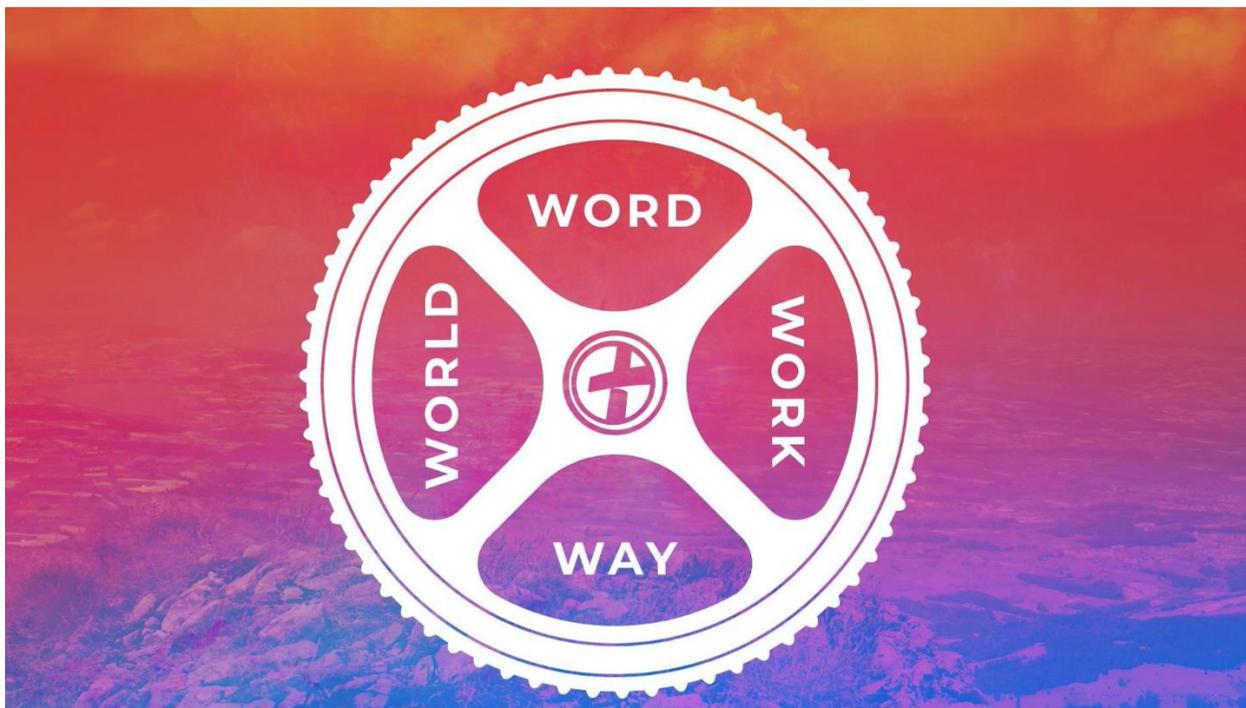


Sermon – 11/13/2022  
Phillip Bethancourt

**Verses Covered**

*Exodus 2:23 – 4:22*

Let me invite you to open your Bibles with me. We're going to spend our time in the book of Exodus, chapter 2 this morning. Exodus chapter 2. And if you're a guest with us, welcome home. This is our Get in the Game Sunday and here's what it's all about. We want to challenge the people that are gathered with us right here at Central to get off the sidelines and to get in the game for the sake of the Gospel. And so, once each year, we have a little fun decorating the stage and wearing gear from our favorite teams that just remind us of the reality that God is calling us to something more. And that's something is to go all in. This is the last week in our All In series where we've been wrestling through what is it look like, what would happen if all of us went all in with Jesus. And we spent our time, you'll notice up on the screen, we had this gear that's been at the heartbeat of what we're doing each week this past month in this series.



This gear that represents the four dimensions we're called to go all in on. They were all in on the word and the work and the way. And this morning, we're talking about what it looks like to be all in on the world. That mission that God has called us to take the Gospel to our neighbors and the nations and the next generation. And what we're going to recognize this morning is that our All In series is inviting us to do exactly that as we get in the game for the sake of the Gospel.

So, last year, when we did our Get in the Game Sunday, we had an amazing time. We had cards that we filled together and we brought them to the front here as a first step in our commitment to serve the Lord. And I want you to notice in the seat back in front of you that you've got a car that looks just like this. Would you mind taking one and grabbing it right now? I'd like for you to hold on to it throughout the message. I remember last a year when we had this Sunday, there was a woman that came forward who the Lord laid it on her heart to serve in our kids ministry. She came forward Sunday morning. She went out to our ministry fair tables after the service was done just like we have today after the service. She talked to the kids team. And by that night, she was already serving in Awana. We had another lady that had visited the church for the very first time on our Get in the Game Sunday. Maybe that's you this morning. And she was so compelled by this vision and heart for all of us to go all in getting in the game together to serve the Lord. She came forward to start the membership process so that she could be a part of that heartbeat. I don't know where Lord finds you this morning. Here's what I know. The reason our church can thrive in the work that God has called us to is we already see so many of you serving faithfully right now. You're pouring yourself out week in and week out for the sake of the Gospel. And we don't want to see any less from you. We just want to invite others into the joy of using your gifts for God's glory. That's really what the of this Get in the Game Sunday is all about. You know, the statistics tell us that since covid, the average church has declined in attendance by about 15%. 15%. But even more challenging than that, even those that are coming back to be in the church are not exactly always being the church. So, another way I heard a pastor put it is, even though some people have returned with their presence, they haven't always return with their participation. I can't help but wonder if that's some of us this morning who pre-covid, we were in the game all in, off the sidelines, and getting after for the sake of the Gospel. But for whatever reason, you find yourself on the sidelines this morning, just like the man that Exodus chapter 2 points us to. This man named Moses. This familiar figure in the Bible, one who becomes a hero of the faith in the Old Testament. But right now, he's more like an antihero. He's on the run. He knows that the problem is with himself. That he has fled God in disobedience. He's run from his calling. And God meets him in the wilderness. And he calls him off the sidelines and into the game. And I want you to see what that looks like now. Starting in Exodus 2, beginning in verse 23. Here's how it begins.

<sup>23</sup>During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. <sup>24</sup>And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. <sup>25</sup>And God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

<sup>1</sup>Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>And

Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." <sup>4</sup>When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup>Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup>And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup>and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you might bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." <sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" <sup>12</sup>And he said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.

Let's pray together.

Father, that's the desire of our hearts. To be seen by You, to be saved by You, to be sent by You. That's what You do in the life of Moses here and we're asking that You would do it in each of our lives this morning, God. As we lay our hearts on Your word and we wrestle with what You would call us to in this next season, we are asking, Father, that Your Spirit would make it clear. How You're calling each one of us to serve for the sake of the kingdom. And we ask these things in Christ's name. Amen.

Well, back in 1938, Peter Murchie was the captain of the Queen Mary. The fastest ship in the world. He had just set a world record that year. But my guess is the next year in September 1939, he probably had the throttle down even a bit harder than that world record run. It's because World War II was kicking off in Europe and he was leaving from England, heading across the Atlantic as he had done many times before on the Queen Mary. But this time, his boat was in danger. You see, the German submarines were all around him and he was seeking to outrace them to safety. So, I imagine it was with great relief he pulled into the dock in New York City in September of 1939. But everything changed for Murchie. See, they grounded the Queen Mary. They wouldn't let her travel back and forth between America and Europe for the next bit of the war. And he sat there on the dock, him and his crew on the sidelines. The greatest ship in the world offering nothing at the moment. That is until in 1940 when military leaders decided that they needed to take that ship and several luxury liners just like it and get them off the sidelines and into the game. And so over the course of several months what they did is they took the world's greatest cruise ship. One that was larger than the Titanic. One that had carried Winston Churchill and Bob Hope and other famous patrons and they turned it from a cruise ship into a battleship. They removed six miles of carpet. They hauled off 220 cases of precious items like China and portraits. They stripped out all of the decor in the state rooms and turned them into bunk rooms, piled high. And by the time that ship was ready, it had gone from a luxury liner that could hold 3,000 people taking them on a trip for their pleasure, and it had been turned to a battleship that could hold over 15,000

soldiers as they took a trip with a purpose. A cruise ship or a battleship. That was the transformation that happened with the Queen Mary.

And as we come face to face here with Exodus chapter 3 and the life of Moses, and as we come face to face with this call to go all in on the world, that is the question before us as a church. Will we be a church built for the pleasure of our people or will we be a church built for the purpose that God has laid out for us? You see, because what is happening here with Moses is something each one of us must come face to face with. Will we live a life of pleasure or a life of purpose? And the heart behind this Get in the Game Sunday is to call each of us off the sidelines and to get into the game of the spiritual battle that is raging against the of darkness led by our triumphant warrior king, Jesus Himself. The one who calls us to Himself. The one that invites us to go all in with Him. See, remember what's happening here in the book of Exodus. Moses has been born. He rose to prominence in the house of Pharaoh. But then things take a turn. He murders an Egyptian in defense of the Israelites and he's condemned for that act and he flees into the wilderness. He runs from the presence and the purpose of God. And we find him in this moment of distress and despair and what we see is God saves him. He rescues him. And this pattern emerge that the one God sees, He saves. And the one God saves, He sends. And what we're going to notice this morning as we work our way through this text is if we want to get off the sidelines and go all in to get in the game for the sake of the Gospel, Exodus 3 is calling us to the reality that saved people are called to serve, to share, and to send. So, starting back at the beginning of the passage, let's see first how this text shows us that saved people, serve people. So, you notice as it begins there, this picture emerges of what it looks like to go all in on the world. And I want you to see a slide on the screen that we looked at at the start of the series about what we're even talking about when we say, we should go all in on the world.

**All In on the World**

*The mission is the world. The vision is to reach our neighbors, the nations, and the next generation as we serve, share, and send.*

**Consumer** —————> **Contributor**

The vision that we are laying out is this, our mission is the world. The vision is to reach our neighbors, the nations, and the next generation as we serve, share, and send. And then notice what happens when that takes place. Look at the bottom of that slide. We move from consumer to

contributor. We move off the sidelines and into the game. And what we find here is that's the moment Moses finds himself. And we notice at the end of chapter 2, that Moses' situation and Israel's situation parallel each other. They're in this moment of desperation because of their disobedience. And in their distress, they cry out to God for rescue, for deliverance, for salvation. And God sees them. He knows them. He commits to rescue them so that He can raise them up and to use them for His glory.

And what we find in this moment in Exodus 3 is we see several characteristics in life of Moses that need to be true with us. If we're going to be the type of people in which saved people, serve people. Who get go all in getting in the game for the sake of the Gospel. And the first thing you'll notice back in verses 1 through 4 is the characteristic of availability. So, saved people who serve people, express their availability to God. So, think about what's happening here in the moment. He is out watching his father-in-law's herd. And he notices on the mountain, it recalls this mountain Horeb. But elsewhere, the Bible calls it Mount Sinai, one of the most important places in the Bible. We see it for the first time right here. And in this moment, what does he find? This bush that appears to be burning. In Acts 7, we know that it tells us this is an angel of the Lord who appears in this flame of fire. We know throughout the Bible, the presence of God is often on display through fire. So, we see it here in at Mount Sinai in the burning bush. We see it later on in the giving of the Ten Commandments when the whole mountaintop is on fire. We see it in the temple when that fire of sacrifice is burning for the Lord. We even see it in Pentecost. Acts 2, the text we looked at a few weeks ago where fire falls upon the people for the presence of God and notice what happens. When Moses experiences the presence of God, he responds by declaring his availability. So, look back at verse 4, God calls out to him and at the end of the verse, how does he respond? Here I am. Saved people serve people when they respond to the presence of God with their availability. And some of you maybe reading the text here and saying, alright, well, if God shows up to me this morning in a burning bush before I fill this card out, then, I'll know what to do. Then, I'll be available. But think about this reality. Moses experiences the presence of God in miniature in this fiery bush. You and I, if we know Jesus, have been indwelt by the Holy Spirit so that we have a burning fire in our hearts with us at all times, pushing us to strive together for the sake of the Gospel. And it's simply the Spirit in us. He's calling us to give God our availability. I've got a pastor friend of mine that says, if you put your yes on the table, you should allow God to put it on the map. Let Him declare where you are to serve. So, even now you look at this card, part of what I want to invite you to do is to put your yes on the table. To take up that pen that's there in the row and start filling out your name. Because we're going to ask you before this time is done to fill this out. And at the conclusion of the message, during the response time, as we complete those cards, I'm going to invite you to bring them as we did last year and place them at the steps as a first step towards where the Lord may be calling you to faithfully serve as you give Him your availability just as Moses did. But notice back here in the text. It's not just his availability.

The second key characteristic here is that of authority. So, in verses 5 through 8, we see that saved people who serve people embrace the authority of God. So, back in verse 5, God tells him to take off his sandals. And what happens is Moses doesn't just hide his sandals, he hides his face. He's undone by the presence and the holiness of God. He recognizes that authority and he embraces it. And we see the basis for that authority; it's the covenant of God. That's why God speaks there in verse 6 that He's the God of Abraham. But it's also the compassion of God. That's why he says in verse 7, I have surely seen the affliction of my people. Moses looks at the authority of God in

his life and in the life of Israel and he surrenders. He becomes open handed. He recognizes the holiness of God and the purpose of God and he buys into that reality by embracing the authority of God. See that authority is a genuine belief that God knows what's best for you and an unwavering commitment to follow that no matter where it takes you. That's why we've spent some time over here at this table throughout the last few weeks talking about these two bowls, these two different ways to live. And I just want to revisit this one more time as we bring this series to a conclusion. We talked about this rice and how it represents all the things that fill our lives, that take up our time. And we have so many things vying for our attention. And we've looked at the different ways this bowl one life where we're trying to squeeze everything else into this reality. But when we talk about authority, here's why we're talking about the difference between a bowl one life and a bowl 2 life. See, in a bowl 1 life, when everything else is filling your life and there's not much time left for the things of God. What can happen is we feel like we're the ones to decide how much work we put in our life. How much work? How much way, how much world. We do our best to squeeze God in. When in reality, what Moses is showing us here, when we embrace the authority of God, it turns that on its head. That our life you're not meant to be spent deciding how to fit God into them but instead fully surrendered to whatever God wants in our lives. That's what a bowl two life is all about. It's saying, I surrender to Your word. I fully devote myself to Your work. I'm all in on the way with the church. I'll do whatever it takes to follow Your call to the world. And when we have that surrender, as we here in the life of Moses, it changes everything about how we serve the Lord. How we get in the game. And I want you to notice what happens now in verse 9. When Moses's availability meets God's authority, it culminates in a kingdom activity. That's what God is calling him to back here in verse 9. When what happens is he tells him what is going to happen from here. So, in verse 10 for example, it says, come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt. And when God gives him this calling, notice that Moses doesn't respond with devotion first but doubt. Look at verse 11. He says, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt? But God meets that uncertain posture with an unwavering promise that's characterized there in verse 12 when he says, "I will be with you and this will be a sign to you that I have sent you. When you brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." So, the promise is that as Moses follows God through his availability, embraces God's authority, and engages in kingdom activity that God will be with him and for him the whole journey. It's one of the things that you might overlook here at the back at the end of verse 12. You'll notice where it is that he will ultimately serve. You see it at the end of the verse. It says, you shall serve God on this mountain. So, right where Moses is standing, right where this burning bush is appearing right here where God is calling him. He's saying, I'll bring you back. You're going to be right here serving me. And the principle of these kind of full-circle callings is often times what God calls you from, He calls you for. He uses those things in your past that have shaped you in your calling to drive you in your service. So, as you're looking at this card and you find yourself pulled towards checking the box on our worship ministry, maybe it's because worship was a big part of your life in the past. The way you saw God for the first time as holy and wanted to follow Him. Maybe the reason that you're checking the box when it comes to kids ministry is because somebody as you were a child invested in you in the kids ministry or student ministry. Maybe you had a breakthrough when you were in school and in college and that is stirring your heart this morning. Often what God calls you from, he calls you for. Which is one of the reasons I am so excited to share with y'all as a church for the very first time where the Lord is taking us for our next Kids Director candidate. I want to take a moment to tell you a little bit about her and for you to see the full circle moment that's bringing her back for this next chapter. You see, next

week is part of our Central Family Celebration. I'm excited to announce that Raegan Kubacak is going to be our candidate for our next kids director. Now, many of you know Raegan. You recognize her and this is a full-circle calling. Because Raegan's right here in our church. We did a national search. We looked all over the country and God brought us back to one of our own right here. And listen to this full circle. If you come on Wednesday night to our Q&A, that'll be over in the Family Life Center and hear her story, part of that story is that Raegan grew up in a divorced home. And as part of her story, she used to come to Central as a child when she was with one of her parents and they had custody of her. And she even came to Awana. And that's one of the ways that God used our church and His ministry of the word to sow seeds of the Gospel that later bore fruit in her salvation. And now in a full circle moment, He's calling her back to lead the next season of our church. Isn't that encouraging to you? God's a full-circle God. He does it with Moses. He wants to do it with each one of us. That's why I want you to look at this card. As you're filling out your name and all that information at the top, maybe marking where you're already serving. I want you to just look at these boxes and ask yourself the question, "Lord, where are the full circle moments in my life? Where are the full-circle ministries that You might be leading me to be a part of?" You see, the first thing that we notice here in this passage is that saved people, served people.

But there's a second thing I want you to see as we work our way through it. It that saved people, share with people. We're going to notice that starting now in verse 13. Let's keep going with the text and here's what it says.

<sup>13</sup>Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup>God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. <sup>16</sup>Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, <sup>17</sup>and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.'"

So how does Moses respond here to the calling of God? You'll see here in the passage, he does not at first respond with commitment but concern. He has questions and not even questions so much about God but about himself. There's doubts, uncertainties, anxieties that creep in. You can sense this fear of failure taking root in his heart. And as a result of that, he doubts himself. He faces fears as he's called not just to serve people but to share with people. And what we're going to find here in Moses's reaction to God and God's words to him is that it brings us face to face with the three failures all of us fear when we want to get off the sidelines and get in the game for the sake of the Gospel. And notice the first one back here in verse 13. It's the fear of inaccuracy. The fear of inaccuracy. In other words, the fear that my answers when I share with people will not be good enough. So, Moses asked this question in verse 13 at the end, he says, what is his name? And that might seem strange to us in our culture. Why would he be asking about God's name? But in that culture, in that time period, you're surrounded by many gods. And

if Moses comes back from the wilderness and comes to the people and says, "Let's follow God." They maybe wondering which god are you speaking of? And how does God answer that question, that concern, that fear of inaccuracy, that fear we've all felt, that what if they ask me the hard question, I don't know how to respond to. What does He tell him? We'll look back in verse 14. God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, say to these people of Israel, "I am has sent me to you." So, God meets his anxiety with an answer. He gives him just enough of an answer to allay that fear of inaccuracy. He says, "I am is sending you and you can trust me to provide all you need in the moment to speak in a way that pleases me as you share." Does anybody notice something interesting going on with the lights right now? Alright. We're good. Let's keep rolling.

There's a second fear that's here. Not just inaccuracy but inadequacy. And I have a feeling this one is felt even more deeply in the church. The fear of inadequacy is a fear not just that my answers won't be enough, but that my credibility won't be enough. And that's what we find with Moses here. In this moment, he looks to God and he is afraid that he will not be respected or received. And this is implicit in the text in the way that God continues to speak. Starting verse 15 when He says to Moses, say this to the people of Israel. The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob has sent me to you. So, you notice that the beginning of verse 15, it uses the word God. God also said, that's the Hebrew word Elohim but then later on, it says, I am the Lord. That is the Hebrew word Yahweh. And he is saying, when he speaks about that term Yahweh, when he reminds him who he is and who he is in Moses's life, he is overcoming that fear of inadequacy. He's saying, you are simply the messenger. I am the message. You are the ambassador. I am the authority. And when Moses feels those moments of inadequacy. That he may not be enough as he seeks to share with others the call of deliverance that God has given him, God is reminding him that I am more than enough for you. I am Lord. And that same inadequacy that grips our hearts and pulls us astray from God in those moments of doubt and discouragement and fear of failure. God confronts those and says, you can be faithful as saved people who share with people to take that Gospel message to the nation just like Moses because I am your Lord. And I'm enough.

But there's one more fear that's tucked away right here. Down in verse 16. It's not just the fear of inaccuracy and inadequacy, it's the fear of insignificance. The fear of insignificance. And at the root of this, the fear is that my message isn't enough. In other words, it won't make a difference. Even if I take God's deliverance and His promise of freedom to these people, it won't matter. It won't move the needle. And look at how God anticipates and confronts that concern there at the end of verse 16. He says, the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. In other words, the reason we can stand on this message and to trust its significance is because it is rooted in the covenant of God. A God of Jacob, a God of Isaac, even a God of Abraham. But it's also not just in the covenant but also in God's compassion. That's why he goes on there at the end of verse 16 to say, I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt. See, our message matters and we should press on even in the pull of insignificance. Because God is both promise maker and promise keeper. And we see those realities coming together in the cross of Jesus Christ. The one who came as a prophet like Moses. The one who shed His blood as a Passover lamb who takes away the sins of the world. The one who defeats God's enemies and delivers God's people through a new exodus so that you and I can be made new. To find a relationship with Jesus. To be called off the sidelines, and in to the game. See, Moses was gripped by fear in the moment. And I can't help but wonder if some of you are being held back from going all in and serving because of those

same types of fears. So, just take a minute to look back at this card for a second and ask yourself the question, “Lord, are there fears? Are there hesitations that are holding me back from going all in on the world by getting in the game and serving?”

There’s just one more thing I want you to see as we come to the conclusion of this chapter. We’ve already noticed the way that saved people serve people. The way that saved people share with people. But the last thing we’ll see is that saved people send people. So, what happens here is that at the end of this chapter, we’re reminded of something we see at the beginning. That God is a sending God. He sees and He saves so that He can send. That’s what He does here with Moses. We see that pattern all throughout the Scripture. That God sees us in our sin. He saves us from our shame and He sets us free and sends us out to live on mission for Him. And when that happens, it comes with a promise. When God sends us, we’ll notice in verse 18 that we are sent with the promise of God’s presence. So, verse 18 says,

<sup>18</sup>And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.’

And you see that phrase right in the middle of verse 18, he has met with us. The presence of God goes alongside the purpose of God in your life. And what we find here is this preview of what Jesus says in the great commission. Go and make disciples of all nations. But at the end of it says, for lo, I will be with you always even to the end of the ages. But we also see that when God sends us, He sends us with the promise of His power. So, notice in verse 19, it says, but I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. So, I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it. And after that, he will let you go. You see, God overcomes our fear of inadequacy with His power. It says there that He will display all the wonders. And as a result of that, Pharaoh will let his people go. Or as the apostle Paul says it for us in the age of the church, if God is for us, who can be against us. That’s why he raises us up and sends us out. Now in just a minute, I’m going to show you a short video. But before you see it, I want to set it up so you understand what’s going on there. You’re going to find here a young lady standing center camera. She’s in a house just like many of yours and she’s surrounded by family members and friends and she’s going to be holding a letter coming from a mission agency that’s called her to serve. And at the of it, she’s going to read out where it is that she’s getting sent. She’s getting sent to Paris, France. And I want you to watch her emotion in the moment and to see the enthusiasm and excitement of those gathered around her as they pray through where she is being sent out on this mission. Take a look at the screens with me right now.

As you share with all your heart, mind, mind, and strength. The Lord will lead you to those who will hear his message. You are the France Paris Mission. Whoo.

Can you catch the moment ? She says to them, I’ve been, I’m being sent to Paris, to the France mission in Paris. And all of these people erupt in celebration. And on the one hand, that should fill with us with amazement and excitement. But on the other hand, as you watch that video, it should fill you with dismay. Because that young lady that’s standing right there in that video, reading out as people celebrate her sending is not a Christian missionary but a Mormon missionary. Can you sense the gratitude, the excitement, the enthusiasm coming from a people who are pushing

forth a false gospel? They have the wrong message. But they have the right desire to send and to celebrate. And here's what I want to put in front of us, Central. How can we stand there and watch people celebrate the sending of missionaries to take a false gospel around the world that might lead others to hell and we not respond in an even greater way in the celebration of sending right here. God is a sending God. He calls us to be a sending people. He does it here in the life of Moses and He does it with each one of us. Which brings us all the way home in this passage. Because you'll notice at the end, when He sends us, He sends us with the promise of His provision. That's why it says in verse 21,

<sup>21</sup>And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty, <sup>22</sup>but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.”

So, think about what God happens. He raises Moses up. He sees him. He saves him. He sends him. He takes him to a people and He brings with him a promise of provision. That promise as we see it there that they'll have favor in verse 21. That they'll not go empty. And how will it happen? God will plunder the Egyptians and provide for them. In other words, God is reminding us not just that He's a sending God but he's a God that supplies all our needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus. You know, Peter Murchie and that crew aboard the Queen Mary spent the next six years at the height of World War II shuttling thousands of soldiers back and forth onto the front lines of the battlefield. But after the war was done, they were faced with the question, what do we do with this ship? And they made the decision to convert it back into the luxury liner it had previously been. So, there was no longer a ship of purpose but back to being one of pleasure. And it served in that way for several years until the Transatlantic flight industry took off and there was no longer need for high-speed water transport between Europe and American. After a while, they took that ship out of service and docked it in Long Beach, California. And for an extended season after the Queen Mary was placed there, they retrofitted the boat so that you could go in and it was set up like a museum. And you can move from stateroom to stateroom, from place to place, compartment to compartment. And some of it they had outfitted like it was in the height of its time as a luxury liner. You see, all the decor, all the pomp, all the merriment. But then other portions of the ship in this museum, they had it set up in its, in the height of its role as a battleship. Where all of those things were converted to bunk rooms and it was minimal and it was purposeful in its nature so that you would come face to face with two realities. Life is a cruise ship. Life is a battleship. What Exodus 3 is bringing us face to face with on this Get in the Game Sunday is everyone of us in this church is faced with the same choice. Will you live your life for pleasure or live your life for purpose? The call of the Gospel this morning is for everyone of us to go all in on the world. So that we can get off the sidelines and get in the game for the sake of the spiritual battle that God has called us to.

Let's pray to in right now.

Father, I'm lifting up these men and women. As we prepare our hearts to complete these cards and to bring them forward in this time in a first step of commitment to You in this next season of service. I pray that you would give us clarity, give us commitment, give us resolve, God. That we would not grow weary in doing good knowing that at the proper time, we will reap a harvest. We ask all these things in Jesus name. Amen.

Well, the response time will feel a little bit different. You're going to notice this card is perforated here at the middle and it's designed for you to fold it in half and tear it apart. We're going to have an extended response song time because before you stand and begin to sing, I want you to finish taking the time to fill out this card. Your name and information, where you're already serving, and check those boxes where you sense the Lord might lead you to serve right now. But on the other half of it, you're going to notice that there are table information for the ministry fair that's taking place out here. And if so, for example, the Lord leads you to check the box for kids. I also want you circle the portion on this this fair information portion of where the kids table is. You can easily find it out there. So, what's going to happen? We'll have ministers here at the front that want to pray with you. We want to talk with you about next steps. But the main opportunity to respond is for you to be seated until these cards are completed. Then, to stand in your feet and let's make our way here and lay them at the steps and just quietly pray as we make this first step of commitment. And as we do that, we'll stand together as those cards are completed and brought forward, and continue to sing in response to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. So, right now, you take time in the quietness of your heart to complete those cards. Let's bring them forward together and respond as the Spirit leads us in this moment.

See the Lord in our midst as you grab a seat. Seen several come forward to respond by taking next steps. Many cards here at the front. There may be some of you that are still filling those out. I would just encourage you to keep doing that. Maybe drop 'em up here at the front on your way out or back in the baskets as you head to the ministry fair. But let me celebrate with some of those that have come forward to take next steps. First, we've got Luke and Edie Luera that are coming forward to start the membership process. We let them know you're excited for that. And then in addition, we've got four amazing young folks who are coming forward to let us know they met Jesus and wanna take the step towards being baptized. Three of them come from the Waters family. We've got Ellen, Phineas, and Sherman. Will y'all let them know how excited you are about that as well? And then in addition to that, we also have Bennett Powell coming forward to let you know he met Jesus this week and he wants to be baptized also. Patrick, I want to give this to you and maybe you can walk everybody out this morning.

As we bring our time to a close I just want to put a few things in front of you. For one, I already had the chance to let you know during the message that we have Raegan Kubacak coming before you a week from today as our kids director candidate. To help you get to know her, if you don't already, because she spent so many years here in the church. If you haven't gotten that chance or you just want to hear her heart for our kids ministry, I want you to know that this Wednesday night, we'll be gathering in the Family Life Center, Gyms at 6 o'clock in order to have the opportunity to do a little church wide Q&A with her. So, come to learn, come with your questions, just so we talk about that next season in our kids ministry. And then the vote itself will be this coming Sunday as part of our Central Family celebration. We'll have the chance to vote her into this role. We'll also bring before you a new candidates for our personnel team, our finance team, our treasurer, and that just those regular things we do at the year end to get us ready for our service in the year to come.

And now, speaking the next Sunday, that Central Family Celebration will happen right here as part of the worship service. That chance to look back on what God has done and look ahead to what He's doing. And one of the things that will be special about this coming Sunday is we get the

chance, during that service, to do two ordinations of men called to Gospel ministry, Shane Mikeska and Donnie Fowler. That will be a part of things. So, if you've never experienced that before, that'll be a new moment for you of what it looks like for us as a church to raise up and to commission those in the next generation that the Lord is calling to His service in vocational ministry.

The last thing I want to put in front of you is just a reminder that on the other half of your card, you've got this ministry fair table landscape. And right out these doors all along the foyer, we've got some amazing ministries that want to talk with you about what it looks like to take a next step with Jesus in service as we head in to 2023. In fact, in order to create space for that, we pushed back the start of our life groups by about 10 to 15 minutes so that you don't have to feel rushed. We want you able to have that time together to learn more about those ministry areas and to process through where it is the Lord maybe taking you next.

As we close at our time, just want to read this word to you to challenge us in this Get In the Game Sunday. It comes from the book of Isaiah chapter 6 when God calls to Isaiah and it says this beginning in verse 4.

<sup>4</sup>And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

And here's the part I want you to focus on.

<sup>8</sup>And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

Central family, let's keep pressing on. Letting that be the posture of our heart. That posture of availability to God's call on our life. You are sent.