

But Moses protested again, "What if they won't believe me or listen to me? What if they say, 'The LORD never appeared to you?'"

Exodus 4:1 (NLT)

Under Protest

Do you think that I ask too much of you? Are the assignments that I give you way beyond your gifts, talents and abilities? Why do you ask that? **I think you know why. Go ahead and tell me why I am asking these questions of you.** Your assignments scare me. I feel overwhelmed by the size of the tasks that you give to me. Sometimes I feel like I'm frozen with fear and immobilized by what you ask me to do for you. **Would you rather that I gave you little assignments that offer no challenge and place no demands on you.** No, I certainly don't want that. **What do you want?** I want you to continue to give me the assignments that you have planned for me to do for you. **Why do you think that I give you assignments that are larger than you can handle?** You want me to know where my assignments are coming from. **What do you mean by that?** I'm the one that would make up and chose the small and easy assignments. **Just because an assignment is large doesn't mean it is always from me.** No, I know. I have bitten off more than I can chew many times before. A large assignment does get my attention though. I know that you give me large assignments so that I will come to rely on you. You want to grow my faith, as I trust in you to work in and through me. I can never accomplish your large assignments without your help. **That's for sure. What are some other reasons why I give you large assignments?** In the small assignments I am likely to receive praise and thanks for a job well done. Everyone will think that I have accomplished something by my very own hard work. I don't want to receive the glory. I know that it is you that is working in and through me even in the very small tasks of life. **That's right.** But, in the very large assignments you give me it is very clear to all that you are the one deserving all the praise, honor and glory. Your large assignments are God sized. When your assignments are completed you receive all the praise, honor and glory. It is my joy to see you receive praise and honor and glory. That's what I want. **Then I have one more question from you.** Go ahead, I'm listening.

Why do you protest when I give you a large assignment? I'm sorry that I have protested and debated with you. I know that my protests have come from fear rather than from faith. Forgive me. **You are forgiven.** In the future I will say yes to whatever you ask of me without protest or debate. I want to know and do your will. So, ask me to do whatever you have planned for me to do for you. **Yes, I will.** I know.

Lord, I have protested and debated with you. I have told you I am unable to do what you have asked me to do for you. That has not mattered. You have called and prepared me. You have asked me to go. You have promised to help me. I will go and serve you. Amen

If *Do Not Believe Me*

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

NIV Exodus 4:1

If *Will Not Believe Me*

Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The LORD did not appear to you.'"

ESV Exodus 4:1

If *Won't Believe Me*

But Moses protested again, "What if they won't believe me or listen to me? What if they say, 'The LORD never appeared to you?'"

NLT Exodus 4:1

If *Will Not Believe Me*

Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.' "

NKJV Exodus 4:1

If *Suppose They Do Not Believe Me*

Then Moses answered, "But suppose they do not believe me or listen to me, but say, 'The LORD did not appear to you.'"

NRSV Exodus 4:1

If *Won't Trust Me*

Moses objected, "They won't trust me. They won't listen to a word I say. They're going to say, 'GOD? Appear to him? Hardly!' "

MSG Exodus 4:1

If *Will Not Believe Me*

AND MOSES answered, But behold, they will not believe me or listen to and obey my voice; for they will say, The Lord has not appeared to you.

AMP Exodus 4:1

If *Won't Believe Me*

But Moses said, "They won't believe me! They won't do what I tell them to. They'll say, 'Jehovah never appeared to you!' "

TLB Exodus 4:1

If *Will Not Believe Me*

Then Moses said, "What if they will not believe me or listen to what I say? For they may say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'"

NASB Exodus 4:1

If *Do Not Believe Me*

Then Moses answered, "What if the people of Israel do not believe me or listen to me? What if they say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'"

NCV Exodus 4:1

Won't Believe Me

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

If – Exodus 4:1

In Context: *Read Exodus 4*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

But Moses protested again, "What if they won't believe me or listen to me? What if they say, 'The LORD never appeared to you?'" Exodus 4:1 (NLT)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

But Moses | protested again | "What if | they won't | believe me | or listen | to me? | What if | they say, | 'The LORD | never appeared | to you?'" Exodus 4:1 (NLT)

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, I have protested and debated with you. I have told you I am unable to do what you have asked me to do for you. That has not mattered. You have called and prepared me. You have asked me to go. You have promised to help me. I will go and serve you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you felt completely unable to do what the Lord asked you to do for Him?

Why will the Lord often give you things to do for Him that are beyond your gifts, talents and resources?

When have you protested and told the Lord that you were unable to do what He was asking of you?

When has the Lord won the debate and you have gone and done what He asked of you?

How has the Lord been uniquely preparing you to do what He is asking you to do for Him?

How has the Lord brought others alongside you to help you to do what He asked you to do for Him?

What fruit has your life born for the Lord as you have gone and done what He asked of you?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Go and do what the Lord asks you to do for Him with the gifts, talents and resources that He will give to you.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will make you able to do all that He has given you to do for Him.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has made you able to do what He asked of you.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you go and do what the Lord asks of you with the ability that He will give to you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will go and do what you ask of me with the ability that you will give to me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, what do you want me to go and do for you today?
