

How To Get God Angry

Excuses, Excuses, Excuses:

Exodus 4:1-17

God's Calling:

Exodus 4:1-17 Romans 5:8 & 12:1-2 1 John 1:9

→ Usually takes the **ordinary** and makes it **extraordinary**.

→ Is for us to **come into** his Kingdom and then **serve in** his Kingdom.

It is about both our **salvation**, and our **vocation**.

→ Doesn't just give us a new **direction**, but a whole new **map**.

→ Doesn't just redeem **us**, but redeems **our past**.

→ Is not about who **we are**, but about who **he is**.

Two Things To Take Home:

Exodus 4:13-17 John 14:15-23 Matthew 7:21

❶ God meets us in our **weakness** and **doubts**, not our **unwillingness**.

❷ Our unwillingness may be standing in the way of **freeing others**.

Food for Thought for the week of December 6, 2015
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Joseph's experience after he discovered his fiancée Mary was pregnant is a good example of the obedience Christ spoke about this past weekend. After reading Matthew 1:18-25, list some of the possible ways that Joseph's obedience in marrying Mary was inconvenient, didn't make sense, or brought temporary pain.

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. *[NIV]*

What's one significant thing you learned about yourself or God through a time in your spiritual journey when you obeyed God even when it was either inconvenient, didn't make sense, or brought temporary pain (or all three)?

2. The Apostle Paul was a man who was willing to follow God even when it was challenging and difficult. In 2 Corinthians 11:23-29, Paul lists some of the things he had to endure in order to carry out the ministry God entrusted to him.

2 Corinthians 11:23-29

²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. ²⁷ I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸ Besides everything else, I face daily the

pressure of my concern for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? *[NIV]*

What do you think motivated Paul to willingly go through so much to be obedient?

How does 2 Corinthians 4:13-18 help explain what motivated Paul?

2 Corinthians 4:13-18

¹³ It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of^[b] faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. ¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. *[NIV]*

What is most helpful in this passage for motivating you towards obedience?

3. The story of King Saul is the story of a man who repeatedly failed to obey God completely. One such incident is recorded in 1 Samuel 13:5-14. After reading it, answer the following questions:

1 Samuel 13:5-14

⁵ The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikmash, east of Beth Aven. ⁶ When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. ⁷ Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead.

Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. ⁸ He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. ⁹ So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. ¹⁰ Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

¹¹ "What have you done?" asked Samuel.

Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikmash, ¹² I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."

¹³ "You have done a foolish thing," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over

Israel for all time. ¹⁴ But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command." *[NIV]*

What excuses did Saul use to rationalize his actions?

What are some other excuses/rationalizations people come up with for not completely obeying what God wants?