

DAY 39

Pick Up Your Staff!

The Lord asked him, “What is that in your hand?”

Exodus 4:2

Leadership Affirmation

I surrender to the Lord whatever He has placed in my hand, trusting He will use my both my past training and my present feelings of inadequacy to do mighty works of grace in others' lives.

We often fear a call to ministry because we misunderstand how God uses our past to shape our future. God is not a “celestial Scrooge,” forcing us to choose between doing the things that bring us fulfillment or surrendering to His call and being miserable.^{xxviii} God reframes who you currently are to fashion you into who He created you to be. Your past experiences, training, and vocation become tools for a fulfilling ministry.

When the Lord told Moses to pick up his staff, he redefined how Moses viewed himself (a simple shepherd on the back side of the desert) into what God was calling him to be (a shepherd to the people of God). Before the bush, he was surviving. After the bush, he was burdened. He couldn't unhear God's call. From that day forward, his shepherd's staff became the rod of God.

Your disruption may not be a burning bush, but something unexpected captures your attention. God's call becomes personal. You're driving home and can't stop thinking about the kids in your church who don't know Jesus. You're sitting through a meeting and think, “I was made for more than this.”

Everything around you starts echoing the same message. Opportunities open up. Scripture hits you differently in your daily reading. You start hearing things in sermons you've never noticed before. Not because the preacher changed, but because *you* did.

You develop a passion for discipling teenagers, planting churches, or shepherding hurting people. You lie awake at night thinking about how to reach your neighborhood, not just how to pay your bills. You've gone from “*Somebody should do something*” to “*I think that somebody may be me.*” God doesn't keep bringing it up to annoy you. He brings it up because He's patiently awaiting your yes. Isn't it time to pick up your staff?

Prayer for Protection

Father, thank you for transforming my vocational training into a vocation for You. I refuse to let any sense of inadequacy hinder me from fulfilling my calling in Christ.