

Family Month: Family Remodel
Remodeling Self Esteem
Exodus chapters 2,3,4 May 28, 2017

Illustration: Remodeling, how often to replace furniture. What is the average life of a couch? Interesting question, but anyone with kids will tell you that the average life of a couch is not nearly long enough. As I reflect upon how many we've had in our 44 years of marriage, I'm guessing we are on number 6 or 7 right now, which is about average, so I am told. I came across this information the other day about the average life of common furnishings in our homes. And, let's face it, if we are going to remodel our homes, there is a high possibility that some new furniture might be needed. Here's a list on the average life expectancy of some common home furnishings.

Home Remodeling



1. **Mattresses:** Expect to keep your mattress for 5-10 years, regardless of whether it's a spring mattress, made of memory foam, or even a water bed.

**Life
expectancy of
some common
household
items.**

2. **Shower Curtain Liners:** Because they're are so regularly exposed to water, shower liners are prone to mold and mildew. As such, it's best to replace them every 3-12 months.

3. **Carpet:** The least expensive carpet option, apartment grade, will last you 1-5 years, while medium grade carpet should hold out for 5-15 years. If money isn't an issue, more expensive high-end carpets can

last 15-25 years.

4. **Pillows:** If you're not cleaning your pillows regularly, expect to replace them after 6 months, though they can last up to 3 years as long as you keep them in tip top shape.

5. **Bath Mat:** Your bathroom rugs endure a lot of wear and tear every day, so picking up a fresh every 1-2 years will keep the space feeling fresh and clean.

6. **Sofas:** Who hasn't encountered a seating problem with a sofa that's past its prime? To avoid such a snafu in your home, bring in a new model every 7-15 years.

7. **Washer and Dryer:** It's best to replace these appliances before they break down or start doing a shoddy job cleaning your clothes, so expect to buy new ones every 10-15 years.

So, if you were looking for an excuse to get some new furniture and do some home remodeling, chances are time and wear is on your side. It's normal to want to do some

remodeling around the house both because of things worn out but also to give our homes a better look and feel.

[The issue for home remodeling today is the issue of self esteem.](#) This thing of self-esteem hits kids extra hard but typically everyone in the family. **Even without spiritual considerations...**

- Bullies will pounce on kids with low self-esteem. Girls will be pressured to do things, to say things, to be something other than who they really are because of low self-esteem. This lack of self-acceptance is a critical piece in the life of young girls of all ages.
- Boys are not immune to this as well. Boys can be belittled into doing things that they'd otherwise never do, all in the desire to be accepted, or to keep from being alone.
- Adults are no different. Who wants to be alone and unaccepted by the "in crowd" or those who seem to be having the most fun? Adults too suffer from a lack of self-esteem.
- That old saying, **"Sticks and stones may hurt my bones but words will never hurt me,"** is just not true.
 - Words can shatter the soul... Words can hurt... Words can kill... Words have far more power than we want them to.



[The issue for adults is huge:](#)

- Poor decisions are made based on a poor self-esteem. Marriages have been made based the husband or the wife having a low self-esteem. People have settled for jobs they hate, and exist in abusive relationships thinking such is all they deserve.
- The feelings of the lack of self-esteem leads one to consider how unworthy one is and that too directs one's faith walk with the Lord, thinking they are never good enough, they never are worthy enough, and it re-aligns in one's attitudes thinking one has nothing to contribute, nothing of any value, nothing that will make a difference, nothing that can be useful at all.
- **The lack of a good self-esteem is as damaging to children as it is to adults.** Children and teens will make poor decisions, and even lifestyle decisions based, not on their faith, but on what they feel about themselves and a low self-esteem.

Following Christ as a disciple can make a huge difference in your children's lives, and their futures as well as yours. Christ gives us value, acceptance, and what is needed to be the people God has called us to be, and self-esteem is one of those areas.

Illustration: When I was a kid, my parent’s house had at one time had a hole in the roof. It wasn’t a huge leak, but it was enough that when it rained, it was obvious. I remember that we just let it go for a while, because after all, who was going to fix it? Who had that kind of time? Who had that kind of patience to go and find out where it was? **It was an annoying problem!** Eventually, because our house had a flat roof, it had to be fixed. I remember the situation of the leaky roof was not just going to go away. **No, it only got worse, even though it was only a problem when it rained.**

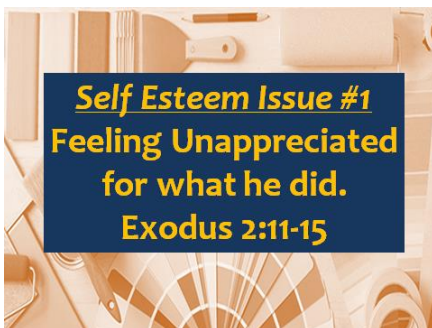


So too this thing of a poor self-esteem. The issue is not going to go away just because we don’t want to deal with it, and like the leaky roof, it only leaks when it rains... it’s not going to one day disappear. It will only get worse. **The issue of a poor self-esteem will show up spiritually too, and that’s my first concern today.** Poor spiritual decisions are being made, children are being encouraged in the wrong ways to pursue the wrong things and being set up for failure all because this thing of having a good spiritual self-esteem is not even being considered.

I want to look at Moses. Moses was not always the great leader we know him to be. In fact, just the opposite. If Moses would have had his way, he would never have done what God called him to do. **The plan today is to look at some selected moments in the life of Moses, see the self-esteem issue, and God’s response to it, and then make application to our children and our lives.**

Self Esteem Issue #1: Feeling unappreciated for what he did.

Illustration: The mom who went on strike. (A brief excerpt from her blog).



“If I hadn’t done the blog I wouldn’t have lasted more than a day, maybe two,” she told me in an interview this morning from her home in Calgary, Alberta. “I am a real Type A. The mess was making me crazy. The only way I stayed on this was by telling myself ‘that’s going to be funny to write about tonight.’” And write she did. **On Day One**, when: ...[at] 6pm the breakfast dishes and dinner dishes are still sitting in their spot a the table, crusty by now. The dishwasher is overflowing, shoes and backpacks are in the middle of the hallway. Dirty socks, empty gatorade bottles and used kleenex litter the back of my couch.

Day Two included revelations such as: ...cereal left sitting in milk in the bowl begins to stink much sooner than one would expect. Quinn likes to cut a lot of paper to make crafts and although the dogs will chew the paper, they will not actually eat it but spit it back out. If you leave the dishwasher open all day long with dirty dishes, the extra large dog will eventually lick the entire thing clean.

The children were starting to sense something was off — but it certainly didn't spur them to act. Come dinner time, one daughter took her seat and “looked at the soggy cereal in her spot and exclaimed “EWWWWW, what is THAT??” Stilwell writes. But the child didn't wash the bowl, or even carry it to the sink (which, to be fair, was already fully stacked with dirty plates.) The Stilwell girls have colorful insulated sacks in which to bring their school lunch to and fro. They are supposed to empty and clean those sacks when they come home each day, but usually dump them, with their backpacks, in the front hall. While on strike, Stilwell and her husband continued to pack school lunches, but not in the smelly unemptied sacks. First Stilwell used plastic bags from a nearby liquor store. Then her husband was inspired to send them in the bags used to collect dog poop from the yard. (You can see photos in the slideshow. Let's just say these were not subtle bags.)

On Day Three:... Olivia took a look at the kitchen after school and announced ‘this kitchen is disgusting’ then walked downstairs...Quinn may have hit an all time low (one can hope) when she emptied the dog brush and placed the bundle of hair on the arm of the chair.

On Day Four,... 10-year-old Quinn broke down sobbing. “I don't wanna eat out of pooh bags anymore, I don't want paper plates or beer cups for breakfast. Can you please help me clean up?” Stilwell took her on a tour of the house, pointing out that “not one item left strewn about belonged to mommy or daddy.”

For a few hours, Stilwell reports, Quinn made an effort to pick up her own things. **By Day Five,** though, she'd “left a bowl full of pancake mix and a tray of crescent rolls half cooked and half eaten on the counter,” and “my leather chair is now decorated with stickers from the packaging of her new soccer shin pads.”

On Day Six,... the strike was over. Stilwell called a halt after the children turned on one another, each blaming her siblings for the mess. They apologized, sort of, and eventually thanked their mother for all she does around the house — but not before one of the twins announced “that's what parents are for, to clean up after their kids.” Stilwell, who had expected a hearts, hugs and tears moment was surprised. What she felt instead was like “I had just climbed Mount Everest and as I stood at the top of the mountain I screamed “THAT'S RIGHT!! IN YOUR FACE SUCKERS!! I WIN!!”

Then came the cleanup, which took two days, and during which Stilwell did not lift a finger to help, but sat on the couch drinking coffee that her daughters made for her. The girls gagged and bickered as they scraped cheese out of what had been a milk glass, using two bottles of Pine Sol and a half a bottle of bleach before the whole house was nearly perfect. In the end, what did Stilwell gain? That's not the right question, she says. She'd prefer to ask what did her children gain? What did she give them?

"I want to give them the world," she wrote in a post this morning. "But... I realized I was doing my own children a dis-service. I was setting them up for failure." It was eye-opening, she says, to see how much of what she did for her children — because she didn't want to argue with them, or because it was faster and simpler to do it herself — were things that they could be — should be — doing on their own. "I fear we are raising a generation of young people whose attitudes will be 'What are you going to do for me?'" she wrote. **Going on strike was how the kids came to appreciate her. It's never nice or easy.**

Moses felt unappreciated for what he did. Exodus 2:11-15

11 One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. 12 Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13 The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?" 14 The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known." 15 When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.

1. The context for this first understanding of the self-esteem issue with Moses is founded in the idea that he was the token Hebrew raised in an Egyptian household.

a. We can easily assume that he was always made to **'feel'** less than a person, enough so that he never forgot that he was not an Egyptian, and that the Egyptians considered themselves superior to him.

b. He was the **"too cute to throw away"** child that was rescued. He became the **'toy'** for the daughter of Pharaoh. She couldn't be busied with raising him so hired someone to do that, but there were moments when she would pull him out and let people see him.



2. This specific incident is proof enough that not only was Moses unaccepted among the Egyptian people, but also not accepted among the Hebrew people. He has no one that comes to his side, even though he thinks himself the one to redeem his people.

3. **Moses appears to take matters into his own hands and when he does, is deeply unappreciated.**

a. We know that there is a self-esteem issue here because we can later read that when he gets married and has children, the names of the first child is **(4:22) Gershom, which means, *(my paraphrase) “I don’t want to be here,” I’m a stranger.** What a name for a child!

4. **Here’s the danger.** Moses’ problem was that he thought he was right in killing the Egyptian soldier. When he finds out he’s not a hero, but rather not respected at all, he becomes greatly discouraged.



a. Note that it wasn’t just Pharaoh’s people that didn’t respect him, now it’s his own Hebrew people that don’t like him. He gets greatly discouraged and then **makes a life decision based on poor self-esteem.**

b. He thought he’d be a hero, he thought that this would be the way to prove himself. He took matters into his own hands and it all blew up on him.

c. Yes, he’s on the run, but put this whole event in full perspective. Why did he think he could be the hero?

5. The spiritual application is this. When trying to build yourself up and make yourself look important, remember these words from Proverbs:

a. **Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.**

b. Was this a moment when pride took over in Moses’ life? Was this the moment that he decided he would no longer be considered a **‘nobody’** by the Hebrew people?

c. The danger came true! Moses made a life decision based on a poor self-esteem, and not humility. He had a recipe for disaster and it resulted.

6. For Moses the self-esteem issue of being unappreciated is resolved this way: in the face of being unappreciated, one adopts humility. **Proverbs 27:2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.** No need to brag, or take matters into your own hands.

a. If Moses was the great leader he thought himself to be, the way to prove that was through humility, and being lifted up by others. But, that’s not what he does.

- b. Humility is the way to honor. **Proverbs 11:2** *When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.* The greatest thing Moses and we learn

Humility

and teach our children and ourselves is humility, and in humility will self-esteem be strong. In humility will self-esteem find its meaning.

- c. **Humility involves:** Self-forgetfulness, selflessness, not self-centered, not fearful about what others think of you, or preoccupied with self concerns. The self-esteem problem of Moses involves thinking too highly of oneself – an exaggerated opinion or exalted view of oneself.

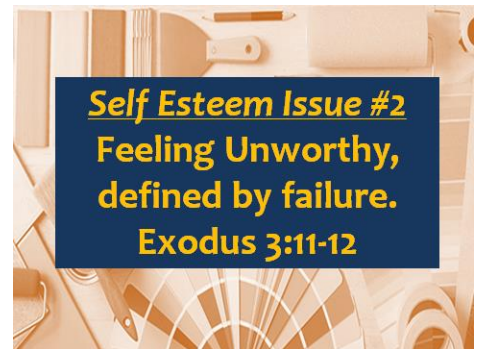
7. The self-esteem issue of being unappreciated is resolved by being humble.

Self Esteem Issue #2: Feeling unworthy, defined by failure.

Illustration: The Loser. I found this on the internet, the qualities of a loser.

Qualities of a loser from an article I found on the internet (so it must be true???)

- **Inhibited integrity.** Integrity means that your values, what you think, say, and do are all aligned. You could argue that a serial killer has integrity because this person thinks, says, and murders consistently with his word. I would argue that this isn't really the core value, because the core value of human beings is to love and be loved, and a short circuit in this person's brain is creating a disconnect between the core moral values and the thoughts that lead to being a big loser.
- **Unnecessary gossip and slander.** In Judaism there is a word for this, [Loshon Hora](#), which means "prohibition of telling gossip, truthful remarks about a non-present person or party." Another word, Motzei Shem Rah means "slander and untrue remarks". If you're known as a person that gossips and slanders, you're a loser, and as such, people will not have trust in you.
- **Chronic pessimism.** I'm not talking about slight pessimism now and then, but serious, consistent, and unrelenting pessimism that makes people shy away from you and causes you to miss out on the beauty of life. Such pessimism is both stifling and paralyzing.
- **Pass an injured man.** No matter what activity you are engaged in, you must never fail to be concerned for another person. If you can pass a man bleeding on the ground,



leave a child crying and unattended, or simply refuse to be there for someone that needs you — you're a loser!

- **No ambitions.** They say no man is an island, and as such, you have a direct influence on the people around you. By exhibiting the contagious quality of no ambition, you are very actively and directly taking away from, and polluting, anyone you come in contact with.
- **Mean and hateful.** Walking around like a ticking time-bomb, waiting for a look, word, or an impression to light your fuse and set you off is no way to live. It's not what's going to get people to show you reverence that comes from love, and trust; rather this false reverence can be a product of fear, which adds negatively to the lives of others.
- **Don't believe in or respect yourself.** It's no secret, and no lie, that before you can respect someone else you must respect yourself. How can you be fully involved in the game of life, cheering and supporting other people along, if you can't even believe in yourself as a person. The fact is that this is a choice that stems directly from positive attitude, and anything else is your refusal and resignation from taking action on a higher level.
- **Quit before you sweat.** Listen, I'm not talking about running at the gym, although that's one possible sign that you give up too early. I'm talking about chasing your dreams, finishing what you start, and being a stand for your own integrity and core values, especially if it means dying for these beliefs.
- **Closed mindedness.** Our perception is divided into 3 parts. What we know (that's easy), what we know we don't know (for instance, we know that there's something in outer space, but we just haven't found it yet), and what we don't know we don't know (You cannot even acknowledge this because you don't know what it is you aren't acknowledging). If you're closed minded you forget about the third one, that which you still have not discovered, even conceptually. However, if you refuse to accept that you don't know everything — your life will be dark forever.
- **Take no responsibility.** Passing the buck and blaming others does nothing more than delay a solution and perpetuate a problem. If you're not a winner, you'll never take responsibility, and you won't be the one person that will change the world. Simply reversing this will make you a [winner](#).

Some may conclude that by Moses' remarks, he too sees himself as a loser. You decide.

Exodus 3:11,12

11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" 12 And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

1. Chapter 3 of Exodus is about Moses and the burning bush. Basically the story goes like this: Moses is out grazing his sheep, **because that apparently is the greatest job someone who was in Pharaoh's household could get.** (Sarcastically). God comes to him and gets Moses' attention through a burning bush. The bush is on fire, but it is not being consumed. Moses is summoned into God's presence and told to take off his shoes.
 - a. Note, God came to him, didn't tell him to go away, but to take off his shoes because this was holy ground.
 - b. **Typically when someone is called into God's presence one approaches it with extreme fear, and with a sense of awe. If Moses has those characteristics, we don't know about it.**



2. God tells Moses that **Exodus 3:7-10 ... "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey--the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."**

3. **Notice these two things:**



- a. The very things that Moses sought to do on his own, helping his people, God says, **"I'm going to do that, and invite you to partner with me in doing this. What you couldn't do, I can. I invite you to partner with me."**

- b. God does not consider the past failure of Moses as disqualifying him. That's a powerful message all by itself, especially when we apply that idea to ourselves. God doesn't disqualify us because of our failures. Rather, it's as if he understands our brokenness and wants to work through us.
- c. God gives Moses all the reasons why he is to do what God has called him to do. God is concerned about His people, He has a great plan for His people, and that God is now wanting to send Moses.

4. Moses responds out of his own life of failure.
 - a. **“Who am I”** is a loaded statement that reeks of failure! Moses sees his life as ineffective, boring, and certainly out of touch with anything that God might want to do.
 - b. **“Who am I”** is the kind of question one would ask humbly as one considers the fact that “I’m not the best person to represent what God wants to do,” or, “I’m not the guy, I’m unworthy, I’ve even named my son in a way so as to let everyone know that I don’t think I belong here, but I’m not sure where I belong.”
5. The issue of self-esteem is more about how Moses sees himself than who God is. What Moses had wanted to do now doesn’t seem to matter, to him at least.
 - a. **Moses turns the issue to talking about himself** (again a key ingredient in the low self-esteem issue) and focuses on his own inadequacies rather than God’s ability. Moses is a failure, a Loser!
6. And the simple application for one who follows Christ is this: Paul goes into this issue of not letting our failures define us as he writes... **1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**



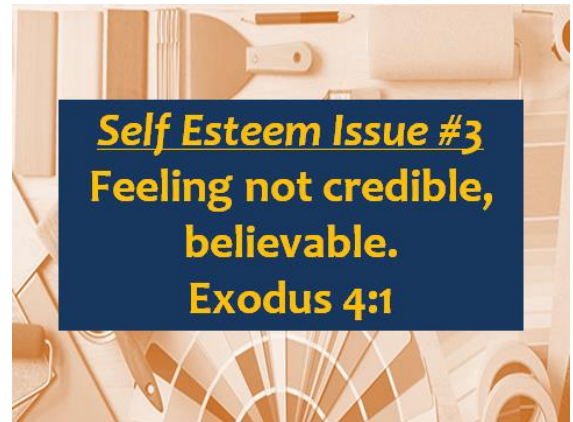
- a. Our newness is not something we conjured up, but something God has done for us.
 - b. Those who are in Christ are **“new,”** even though we might look old, we are new in Christ... fresh, powerful, not defined by failures.
7. For Moses the issue of self-esteem was based on who he was, not on who God is.
 - a. Again, God isn’t looking for the qualified, but the willing. He’s not looking for the worthy, but for those who are willing. He’s not looking for those who are perfect, but for those who will be used.
8. **Isaiah 66:2 says this: (God is speaking) This is the one I esteem, he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.**

- a. Catch that, the one that God esteems is the one who is humble and sorrowful... that's the person God esteems. **This is the one who's usable. What Moses has experienced, failure, is not who he is in God's eyes. Failure is not final.**
- 9. The application for children and youth (as well as adults) is this: **failure need not define you and shouldn't define you as a disciple of Jesus.**
 - a. Moses, like us, might forget this and think it's all about us! It's not.

Self Esteem Issue #3: I'm not credible, believable.

Illustration: *Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus* is a Latin phrase meaning "false in one thing, false in everything." At common law, it is the legal principle that a witness who testifies falsely about one matter is not credible to testify about any matter.

Moses declared himself as someone in whom people won't believe what he says.



Exodus 4:1 Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'"

1. Before we get too far, we need to stop and question the believability of Moses as he said this. The reason I can say this is a self-esteem problem is because elsewhere in Scripture there is a reference to Moses which is totally different from this self-appraisal.
 - a. Stephen speaks in Acts, his final words to the Jewish authorities before he is stoned for his testimony about who Jesus is. **Acts 7:20-23 "At that time Moses was born, and he was no ordinary child. For three months he was cared for in his father's house. 21 When he was placed outside, Pharaoh's daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. 22 Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action. 23 "When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his fellow Israelites.**
 - b. It's almost as if this is not the Moses we know! How does this guy who's noted for being so strong and forceful become a nobody? Some of the rabbinic history

SAME GUY ?

surrounding Moses as a child in the household of Pharaoh has him leading soldiers against an Ethiopian rebellion. This is not the same guy, so it seems, who names his child in discouragement. (Perhaps if Moses was as great as he was, there is no reason to doubt why he did what he did in killing the

Egyptian soldier. Was Moses thinking it was time to revolt against the Egyptians and free the Hebrews? Don't know for sure).

- c. But then we've got this to consider: **"How does this Moses who is noted as strong and power in speech and action become someone who is now a nobody, who considers himself unbelievable?"**
 - d. My only answer is... a decision made with a poor self-esteem kept on making more bad life decisions, until Moses gets to the place that all he is doing is tearing himself down **and making more bad decisions!**
 - e. **Imagined situations of what God wants to do discourage him.**
2. Moses considered himself unbelievable as a leader and even as a person. The bigger problem, as a backseat psychologist would say, is that Moses built his self-esteem himself, built on his own abilities and on his own personal sense of worth. **When that was challenged and taken away, he sees himself and his identity as failure.**
 - a. All he can show for his past years of great service now is to be a shepherd taking care of sheep.
 3. The point of application is this: Moses didn't see himself as a believable person, for a variety of reasons, and so his lack of self-esteem shows. The issue of credibility is huge.
 - a. Moses' own plan for making himself believable had failed (remember he killed the Egyptian and then his own people turned on him?). One event changed his life and set in motion a lifetime of failure.
 - b. **Perhaps we have those past events in our lives that have shaped our lives into the "mess" that we are today.**
 - c. Does God have anything to say to that?
 4. **Here's the point of application:** God says in **Exodus 3:12**, **"I will be with you."**
 - a. One becomes believable, not because of what we think is needed, but because of who God is, and God says, **"I will be with you."**
 - b. Being unbelievable is not the issue any longer because God says he will be with us. God says, **"I'll make you believable. Can you trust me to do this?"**
 - c. There is an old saying, **"God plus me is a majority."**
 - d. **Look carefully, God is not asking for Moses to stand on his own record, but to stand on who God is.**
 5. The danger which Moses had and we also have is that we evaluate ourselves as if God is not a part of our lives, and so we assume we will fail. We all do this. We all evaluate who

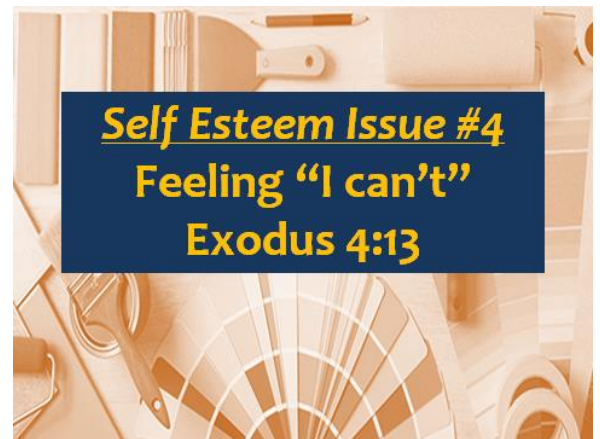
**Being
Believable**

we are, not as children of God, not as people to whom God has made any promises, but as people who **“get what they deserve,”** and can’t be trusted. Moses saw himself as not believable, even if God said to do this.

6. **The application is this: the key to being believable as a self-esteem issue is finding your identity in God, not in yourself.**
 - a. When helping children deal with this issue of not being believable, it begins with them being obedient.
 - b. Jesus himself said, **Luke 6:43-45 "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44 Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. 45 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.**
 - c. Children, as well as adults can build their self-esteem in the Lord, and it begins with being obedient. There is far more to say about how important obedience is to children, but a parent soon understands if a child is being truthful based on obedience.
7. Thus, being believable is a self-esteem issue, and to correct one’s poor self-esteem begins with being obedient and finding one’s identity in Jesus, not one’s past failures or successes. (the Apostle Paul is an excellent example of this).

Self Esteem Issue #4: I can’t.

Illustration: Lies we tell ourselves. We are pretty used to telling lies to ourselves, so much that we believe them. Let me illustrate: **My diet starts tomorrow. One drink won’t hurt me. Calories don’t count on the weekend. (After a couple breaks up) We can still be friends. If I just had more time, I’d get this done. I would change, but I can’t. And the best of all, “I know what I’m doing.”**



We all have excuses, and that’s where Moses lands as he says, **“find someone else.”**
Exodus 4:13 But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it."

1. The difficulty in this one verse is that we probably see ourselves. While we won’t want to make an open statement that we too are unwilling to do what God calls us to do, the truth is our lack of involvement says it all.

- a. Jesus made a very clear statement in **Luke 6:46-49** *"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"*
- b. We, like Moses, tell God, "No," but it's probably not as apparent. We are called to commitment, to be sacrificial, to be loving, to be forgiving, to be compassionate. **All of those are great things to which we are called, but instead**



of outright telling God, "No," we just move on and act like we said yes, but then live like the "no" didn't say.

2. This creates problems. Specifically, the issue of a poor self-esteem, in this and many cases, leads to outright disobedience and rebellion to God. We just want to pretend that's not been said.
3. There are a lot of things that can be said about Moses at this point such as is laziness an issue? Does he just feel underqualified? Is he so broken that he thinks God can't use him? We aren't sure, but it is obvious that he stirs up the anger of God, for in **Exodus 4:14-17** *Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and his heart will be glad when he sees you. 15 You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. 16 He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. 17 But take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it."*
4. Without going too much deeper into this, let me just address the issue of the "can't" in self-esteem.
 - a. We can't, but God can.
 - b. **Ephesians 3:20-21** *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*
 - c. Does that make a difference? I think we get so obsessed with our inability that we just assume it can't or won't be done.
5. While one's poor self-esteem is based on what one can't do, when one builds his life in Christ, it's not about what we can't do, but what will God do through us.
6. As people who follow Jesus Christ, we've got to stop listening and lying to ourselves that we can't do anything.
 - a. God is not weak, nor are His plans.



- b. We are admittedly weak, but we have this promise: **2 Corinthians 12:10** *That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*



- c. Plug in this thing of poor self-esteem. For when I have a poor self-esteem, then I am strong. See, this is how God works in our lives.

7. Sure, yes, assuredly, we can't, but as Mary said upon hearing that she would birth the Son of God, ***"with God all things are possible."***

8. Our poor self-esteem may dictate to us that we are incapable, but so be it. In Christ, we are not!

Conclusion: Things I'm going to work on some day. I'm like a lot of guys. I've got a lot of things at home that I'm going to work on some day. Someday, I've got an antique pew in my shed I'm going to get out, re-assemble and stain. It will make a great antique. Someday, I'll clean out my car, someday, I'll reorganize my tools so I can find them easier. Someday, I'll throw thing away that I don't use any longer. When will that "someday" come? Probably not until something breaks, or its unavoidable that I work on it.



So too with this thing of self-esteem. The spiritual issue is where I'm landing today, because a poor sense of who we are in God's eyes, as followers of Christ, can keep us from serving, from sharing our story of who Christ is in us, can keep us from growing in our faith... all because we are convinced we aren't good enough, talented enough, and have convinced ourselves that doing nothing is ok. It's not.

Consider these questions:



1. Feeling unappreciated can hurt us spiritually. When that happens, will you undergird your life with humility that is Christ-like? This is how to grow.
2. Are there times you let failure define who you are? I challenge you to find your identity in Christ, his love, forgiveness and power.
3. Are you believable as a follower of Jesus? Is your faith a demonstration of who Christ is in your life?
4. Are you tired of saying, "I can't" do whatever God is calling me to do?

Will you rely on God who makes one able, and rephrase to say, "with God, I can?"

5. What do you need to do because Jesus is Lord?

