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MOSES

“I’m just not good at that sort of thing.” (Exodus 3-4)

When we base our obedience on our own **abilities** and **limitations**, we deny God's opportunity to display his glory and power. This is displayed when He accomplishes his will even **through** limited and fallen followers like us.

JONAH

“I don’t even like those folks, so why should I help them? (Jonah 3-4)

Assyria

- aggressive, domineering, cruel ... Israel's "enemy"
- capital city = Ninevah

Ever felt God urging you to help a person that you do not even like?

When we base our obedience on the **character** and **likeability** of someone else, we are withholding God's **love** and contesting God's **wisdom** and denying the **basis** of our own divine forgiveness.
(Matthew 6:14-15)

Peter

**“I already tried that. It didn’t work!”
(Luke 5:4-6)**

When we base our obedience on **past failures**, we are essentially awaiting ensured **success** and not embracing risk. Therefore we miss opportunities to make our faith **grow**.

We also miss out on crucial times of **self-reflection** to determine if our past failures are the result of running ahead of God.

EZEKIEL

“I do not want to be the bearer of bad news.” (Ezekiel 2-3)

“But I will make you as unyielding and hardened as they are. I will make your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not be afraid or terrified of them, even though they are a rebellious house.” (Ezekiel 3:8-9)



So I went with bitterness and anger
in my spirit and the the strong hand
of the Lord upon me. (Ezekiel 3:14)

When we base our obedience on whether we think someone will respond **positively**, we withhold **truth** and undermine God's work of using truth to set people free.

“rich man”

**“I would not be able to afford that
kind of sacrifice” (Mark 10:21-22)**

When we base our obedience on whether we feel we can afford the **cost**, we are denying God **access** to every part of our life. We are also not **trusting** that God will provide us with whatever we need to do whatever he asks.

PHARAOH

“I’m willing to do part of it, but not everything” (Exodus 10:3-11)

Pharaoh's officials said to him,
“How long will this man be a
snare to us? Let the people go!
Do you not realize that Egypt is in
ruins? (Exodus 10:7)

Pharaoh said, “The Lord be with you if I let your women and children go. NO! Have only the men go ...”
Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh's presence.
(Exodus 3:10-11)

When we base our obedience to God on what it **leaves for us**, we are saying “I respect you but I do not **love** you. God is not impressed.

There are REASONS why God asks us to do things which we consider difficult, distasteful, or objectionable.

- To demonstrate His **glory**
- To **grow** our faith and the faith of those who observe
- We are the **hands** and **feet** of His will and His Kingdom

I'm not worried about it. I'm good
because God hasn't called me.

God has called you, God does call you, and God will call you again!

- By giving you talents and abilities
- By giving you interests and passions and empathy
- By placing needs and hardships and opportunities in front of you.