

A person in a dark jacket and shorts stands with their back to the camera on a rocky mountain peak. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Have I Become
Comfortably Numb

Exodus 4:10-13

Comfortably Numb

- Rock group Pink Floyd recorded a song with an interesting title “Comfortably Numb” and it presents an interesting question, “Are we becoming or have I become comfortably numb?”
 - Let’s take these two words at face value
 - Comfortable means physically or mentally content, lack of motivation to change
 - Numb means lacking feeling or emotion; indifferent, acceptance of the status quo
 - The combination of unrealized dreams and desires with the lack of motivation to do anything about it

Comfortably Numb

- The combination of unrealized dreams and desires with the lack of motivation to do anything about it
 - Can we become comfortably numb in our marriages?
 - What about with our children?
 - What about our work or the work we do?
 - What about our relationship with God?

Comfortably Numb

- The church at Ephesus I believe had grown comfortably numb
 - **Revelation 2:2-3 NIV**, 2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name and have not grown weary.
 - **Revelation 2:4 ESV**, 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first (*lost your first love or the love you had from the beginning*).
 - **Revelation 2:5 ESV**, 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

Comfortably Numb

- Compare the church at Ephesus with the Apostle Paul
- **Philippians 3:10-14 NIV**, 10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow (*any means possible*), attaining to the resurrection from the dead.
 - 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
 - Does this sound like someone comfortably numb in his relationship with Jesus?

Comfortably Numb

- Comfortably Numb is where I believe Moses finds himself in our verses this morning
 - The desires of his youth of rescuing his people have been crushed on the back side of the mountain called failure
 - His identification with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has dried up after 40 years
 - He just doesn't care anymore; the fire of desire has grown dim
 - He just doesn't have the energy anymore to even consider changing
 - The burning-nonburning bush caught his attention
 - Hearing God's voice and knowing His name interesting
 - The miracles were staggering to him
 - But...."I'm still just Moses"

Scripture

- **Exodus 4:10-13 NIV**, 10 Moses said to the Lord, “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”
 - 11 The Lord said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”
 - 13 But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.”

Comfortably Numb

- What happened to Moses?
 - Where is the fire in his heart to deliver his people?
 - Where is the confidence he once had?
 - Where is the dedication to the God of his people?
 - Where is the joy of seeing God's presence in his life?
 - He is discontented with his life but comfortable in it on the backside of the mountain
 - He is reluctant to change the direction of his life – “been there, tried that, failed miserably so I'm good right here”

Comfortably Numb

- What happened to Moses?
 - It's easy to criticize Moses in 2024 but
 - Where is your joy of the Lord that once permeated your life?
 - Where is your eagerness to know Christ like Paul?
 - Where is your peace that so defined your life?
- What Moses needed was the same as the church at Ephesus – remember, repent, and return
 - And this may be your need as well this morning

It doesn't take much to keep us comfortably numb

- **Exodus 4:10-13 NIV**, 10 Moses said to the Lord, “Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”
 - “Lord, all you have shown me is really wonderful but it’s still the same me”
 - “You have not done enough Lord; I still have a heavy tongue, and you have not changed that since you showed up”
 - “If you would just do this for me God, then I will follow you anywhere”
- Maybe your statement to God would be different from these today
 - “God does not seem real in my life”
 - “Worship has become boring while we do the same thing every week”
 - “I can just stay home and watch and hear the service on online”

It doesn't take much to keep us comfortably numb

- We hear this similar throughs in Scripture
 - **John 6:30-31 NIV**, 30 So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? 31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”
 - Previous day Jesus fed 5,000 people with 5 small barley loaves and 2 small fish – some of them were there
 - They knew Jesus had walked across the lake, heard people talk about it
 - They had witnessed the many miracles Jesus had performed
 - “Just one more miracle Jesus, that’s all we ask”
 - “Just one more thing breaking our way”

It doesn't take much to keep us comfortably numb

- We even hear it when Jesus was being crucified
 - **Matthew 27:41-44 NIV**, 41 In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 42 “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” 44 In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.
 - **Luke 23:39 NIV**, “One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

It doesn't take much to keep us comfortably numb

- The Religious Leaders knew Jesus, witnessed most of His miracles, heard His great teaching
 - But they were comfortably numb in their beliefs, traditions, relationship with God
- What about you this morning?
 - Is there any room for the Holy Spirit to work in your heart, life if He desires this morning?

All of God's truth does not move Moses out of being comfortably numb

- **Exodus 4:11-12 NIV**, 11 The Lord said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”
- Please notice the patience God has with Moses
 - God has shown Moses who He is, Given Moses His name, Demonstrated His power to Moses, Offered to Moses a life of blessings
 - All of this is miraculous, evidence, powerful truth
 - But Moses is still focused only on His perceived weaknesses or his hurts at being rejected or maybe blaming God

All of God's truth does not move Moses out of being comfortably numb

- Even in this, God has promise to be with Moses and give him everything needed to accomplish His purpose in Moses' life
 - God gave Moses clear instructions on what he was to do and what words to say
 - God's instructions affirm that Moses was merely meant to act as both messenger and instrument
 - In other words, God assures Moses that the burden of actually delivering the Jewish people from slavery would be up to Him and not Moses

All of God's truth does not move Moses out of being comfortably numb

- Leaving Moses, once again, with nothing to fear or worry about
 - “Moses, do you think I did not know about your thick tongue?”
 - “Do you think I cannot call and use a deaf or mute person?”
 - “How about a blind person?”
 - “I know. I send. I equip. I overcome. It will be My hand by which Israel will be redeemed.”
 - “All you must do Moses is go, taking your staff of promise with you

All of God's truth does not move Moses out of being comfortably numb

- **2nd Corinthians 12:7-10 NIV**, Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.
 - 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
 - Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 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.
- Hear God tell Moses and you this morning, "My grace, power, presence is sufficient for you today"

All of God's truth does not move Moses out of being comfortably numb

- Rich man and Lazarus
 - **Luke 16:27-31 NIV**, 27 “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ 29 “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’ 30 ““No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’
 - 31 “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

All of God's truth does not move Moses out of being comfortably numb

- What are you looking for from God to move you out of your comfortably numb relationship with Him?
 - Realize it is not God, but you
 - Is this not what God is telling Moses?

Moses finally gets honest with God, “I just don’t want to”

- **Exodus 4:13 NIV**, 13 But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.”
 - **MSG**, But he said, “Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.”
 - Go pick on someone else God, I’m staying comfortably numb
- Moses had no reason to question or distrust God or let his fear get the better of him – he just doesn’t want to follow God
- Moses calls God Lord but refused to follow and obey Him, so is God really his Lord?

Moses finally gets honest with God, “I just don’t want to”

- “I’m content in my discontent”
 - “I don’t like it here on the backside of this mountain, but it sounds better than what you are calling me to do God”
 - I’m content being comfortably numb
 - So, send some else
- Please understand, it is God who does the qualifying
 - It is God who equips and empowers
 - It is God who knows and understands you better than you know yourself
 - It is God who sees out before or in front of you

Moses finally gets honest with God, “I just don’t want to”

- **Exodus 4:14 NIV**, “Then the Lord’s anger burned against Moses”
 - God was rightly angry at Moses’ stubborn refusal to see that the King of Kings could be trusted and depended upon
 - But God’s anger is always tempered by grace and mercy toward His people
 - **Nehemiah 9:16-17 NIV**, 16 “But they, our ancestors, became arrogant and stiff-necked, and they did not obey your commands. 17 They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them.”
- God did not abandon Moses, Nation Of Israel, and He will not you

Comfortably Numb

- What happens to a marriage when the relationship becomes comfortably numb?
 - Or maybe the relationship with your children, work, yourself
 - The relationship will grow stale, unfulfilling, and unimportant
- God is all about relationships and He will work to draw you out of your comfortably numbness to a place of blessing beyond measure if you will follow the same command He gave to Moses and just “go” and take My promises with you
- **Acts 17:28 NIV**, “For in him we live and move and have our being”

A person in a hoodie and shorts stands on a dark mountain ridge, looking out over a vast mountain range under a twilight sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a soft glow over the scene. The text is overlaid on the image.

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