



- Next man up



- 6th round draft pick (low), not well regarded
 - During training camp, moved slowly from 4th QB to 2nd
 - Back up quarterback
 - Spent a whole season on the bench, next season looks much the same.



- Ahead of him was a really good QB
 - 1st round draft pick
 - 4 playoff games
 - 2 superbows
 - All pro



- During his second year, starting qb injured and he had to come off the bench
 - Next man up
 - something bad has happened
 - generally you are not regarded as the best man
 - but he's gone down
 - Now you have to step up!



- Tom Brady
 - 8 superbows
 - 4 superbowl mvp
 - 3 nfl mvp
- Seldom works out this good...
 - Sometimes we send ourselves to the bench
 - Sometimes we assume others are better than us, so why try?

“Next man up”

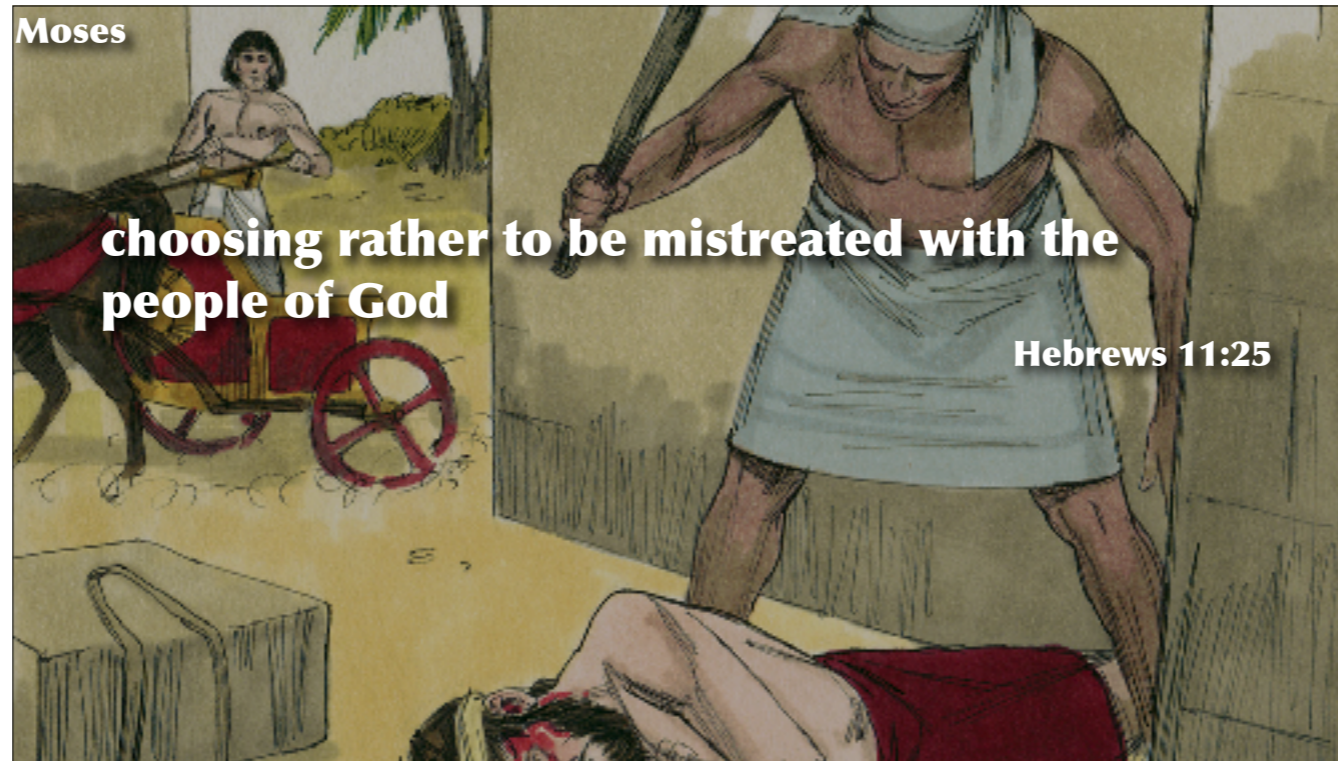
- Next man up
- something bad has happened
 - generally you are not regarded as the best man (second string... at least)
 - but he's gone down
 - Now you have to step up!
- It's time to get in the game.



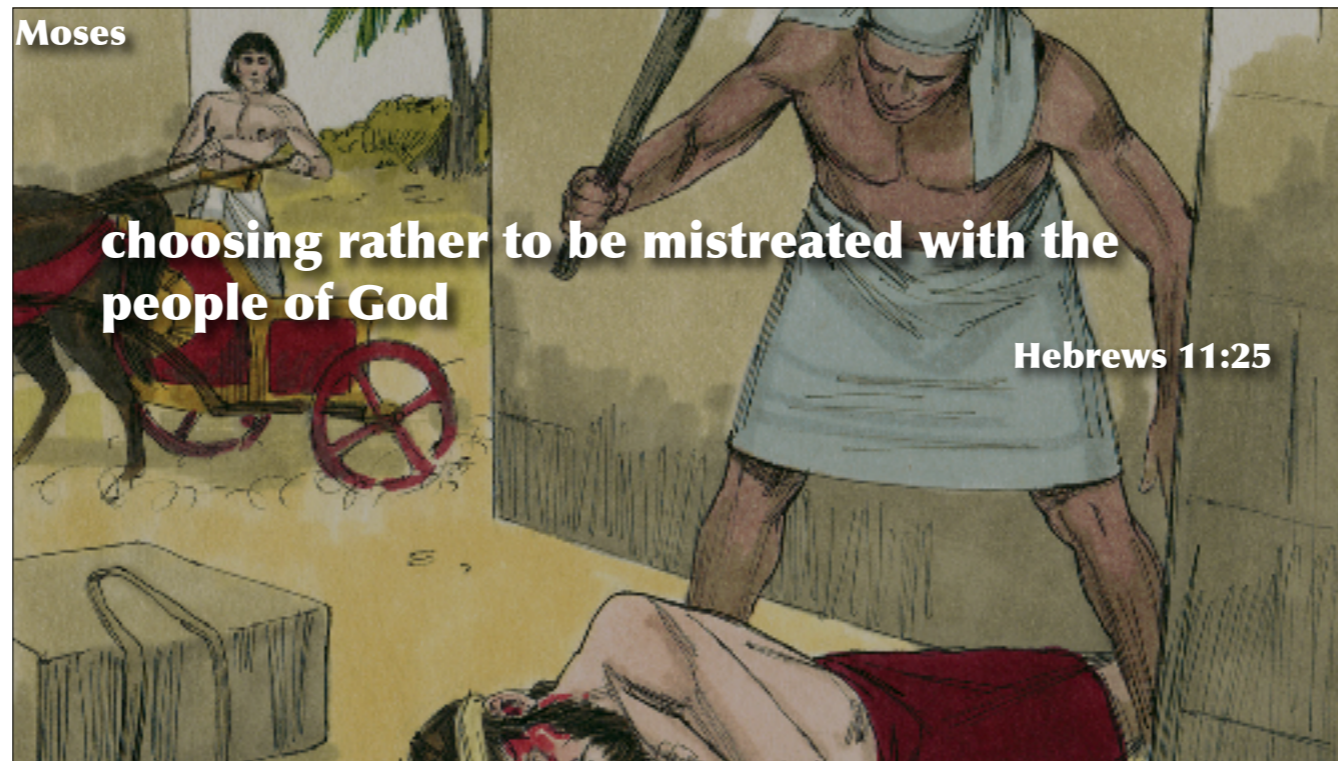
- If you think that this is what Christianity is about (worship, sitting in pews for 2 hours) you are mistaken!
- If you think that this is all that you need to do to please God and Jesus, you are mistaken!
- We've often fooled ourselves into a complacent, passive faith that is sufficient.
- We desperately need to get off the bench and get in the game.
- You are the next man up!



- Moses



- Hebrews 11:24-28 (ESV) 24 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.
- 40 Years old

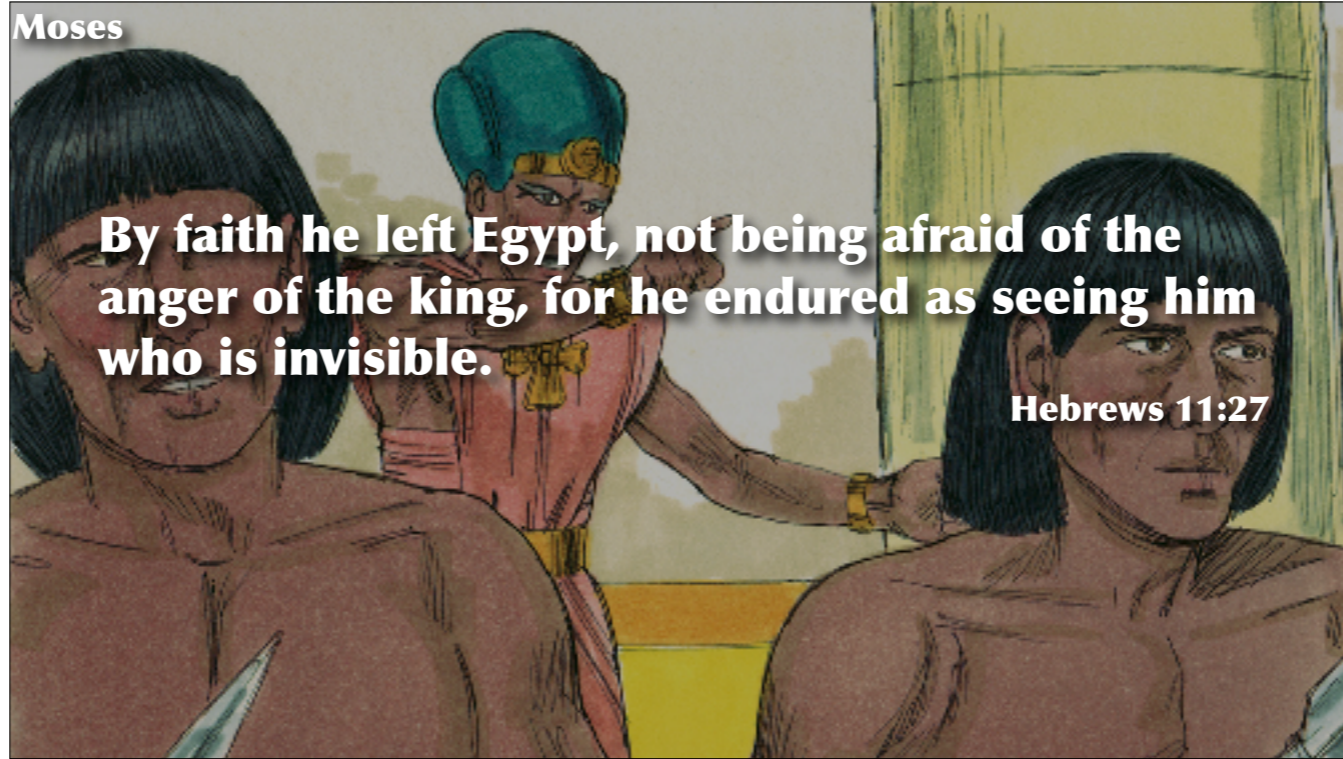


- Moses was zealous for God and His people!
- Exodus 2:11-15 (ESV) 11 One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. 12 He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13 When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, “Why do you strike your companion?” 14 He answered, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?”

Moses

By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.

Hebrews 11:27

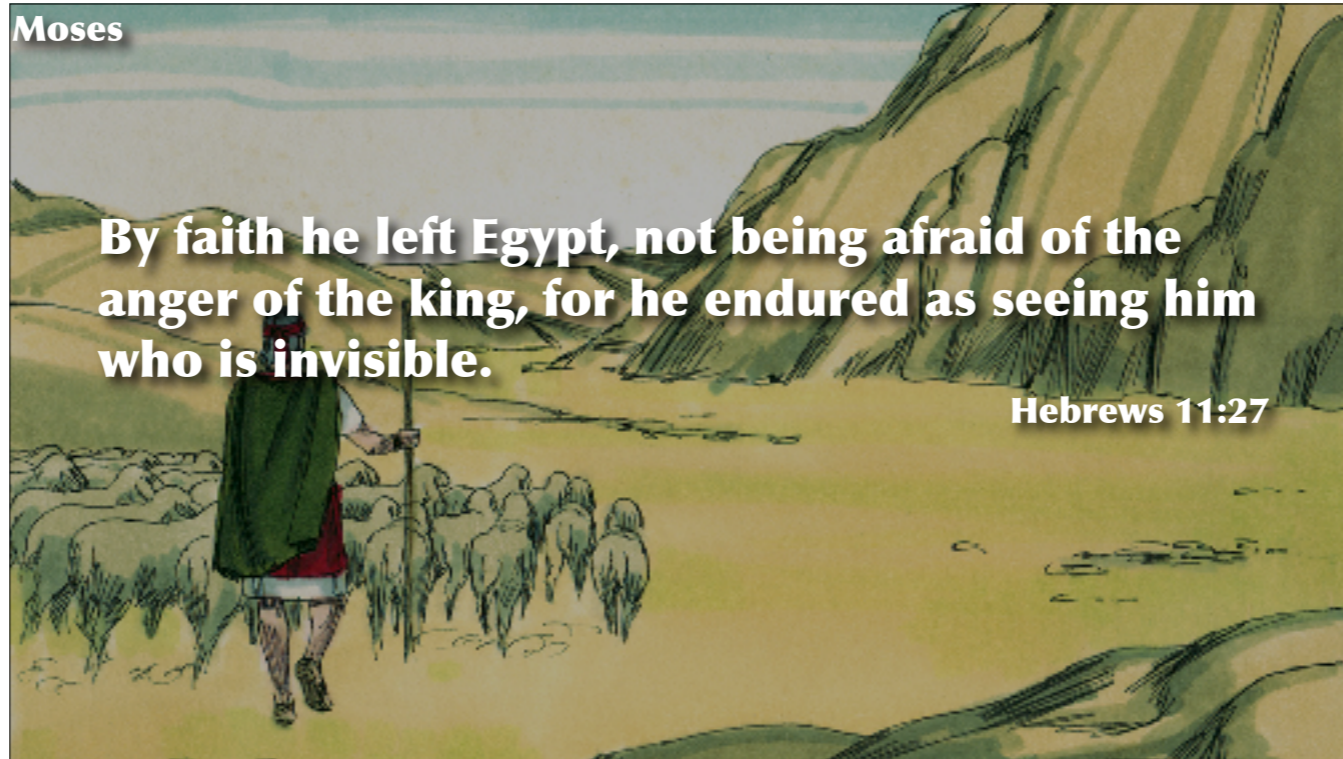


- Hebrews 11:27 (ESV) 27 By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.
- Exodus 2:14-15: Then Moses was afraid, and thought, "Surely the thing is known." When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

Moses

By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.

Hebrews 11:27

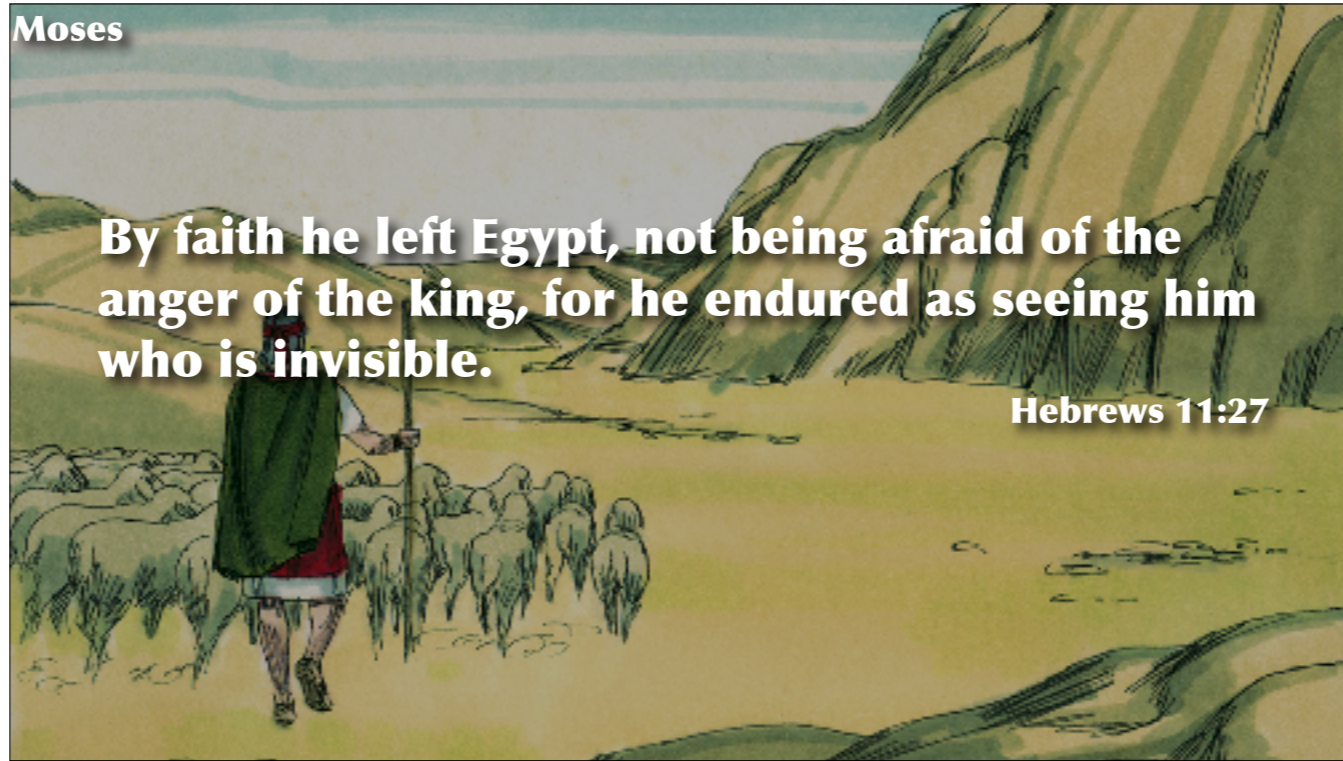


- Then what did Moses do?
- Shepherd in Midian
 - Exodus 2:21-23 (ESV) 21 And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. 22 She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land." 23 **During those many days** the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God.
- 40 years!
- Moses is standing aside now, He was complacent and disregarding his people.
 - His people are suffering more in their slavery
 - His people are crying out for rescue
 - Moses is watching sheep, raising family

Moses

**By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the
anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him
who is invisible.**

Hebrews 11:27



- 40 years!
- Moses is standing aside now, He was complacent and disregarding his people.
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Moses

Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.

Exodus 3:10

- Exodus 3:10: Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.
- Time for Moses to come off the bench and get into the game.

Moses

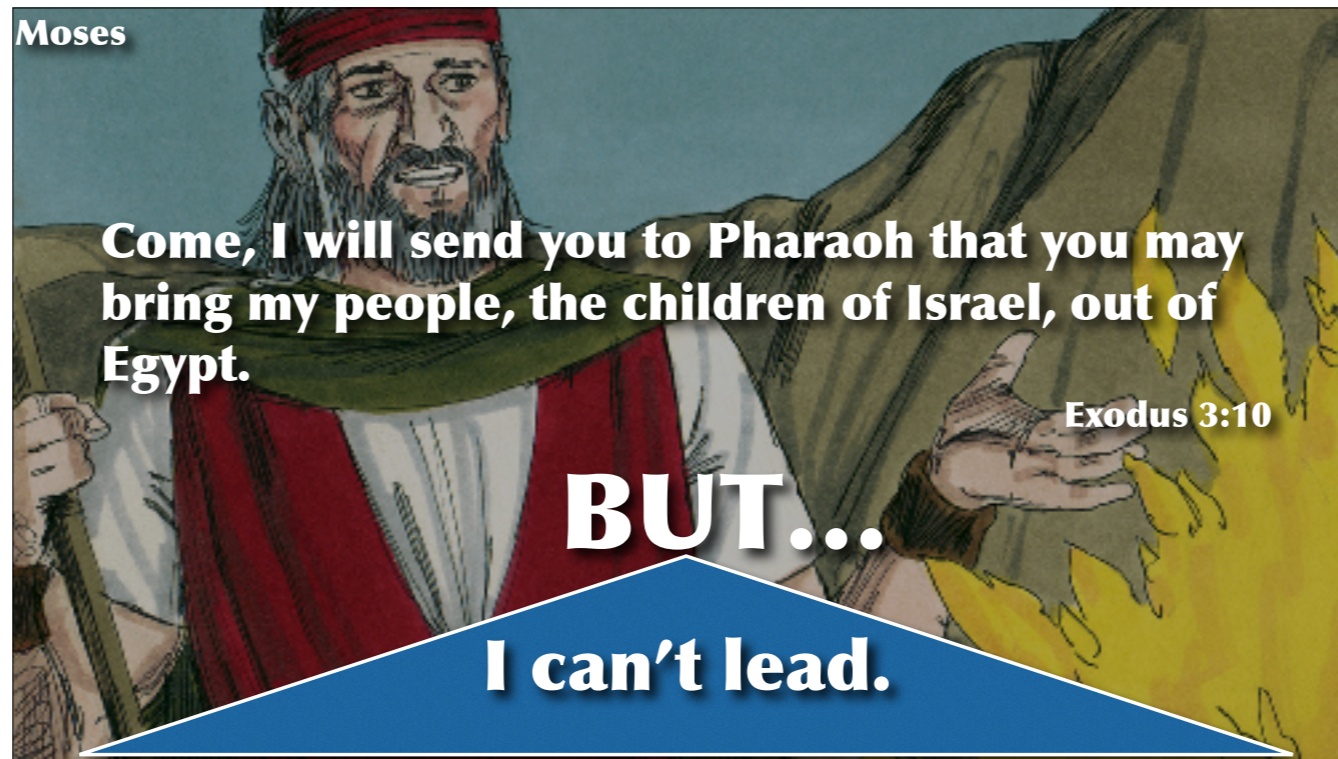
Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.

Exodus 3:10

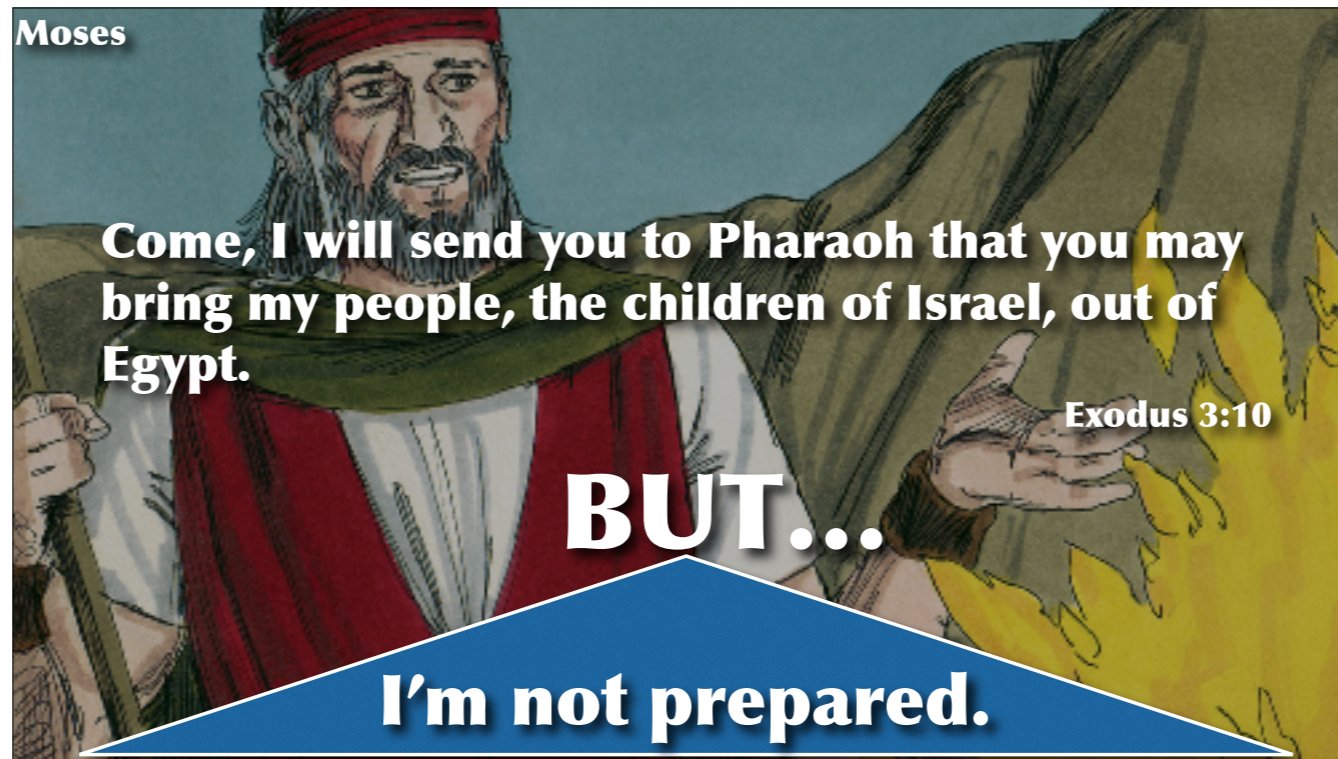
BUT...

Who am I?

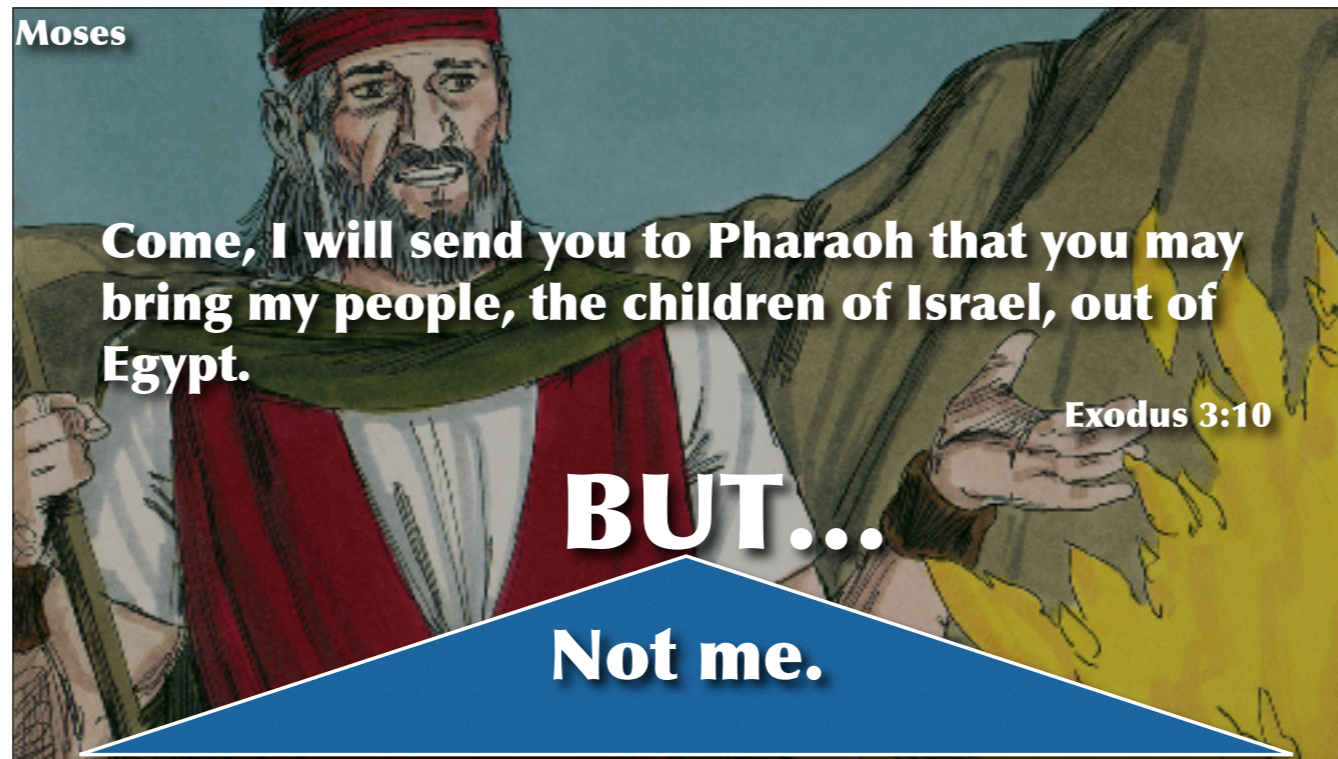
- Exodus 3:11-12 (ESV) 11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” 12 He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”



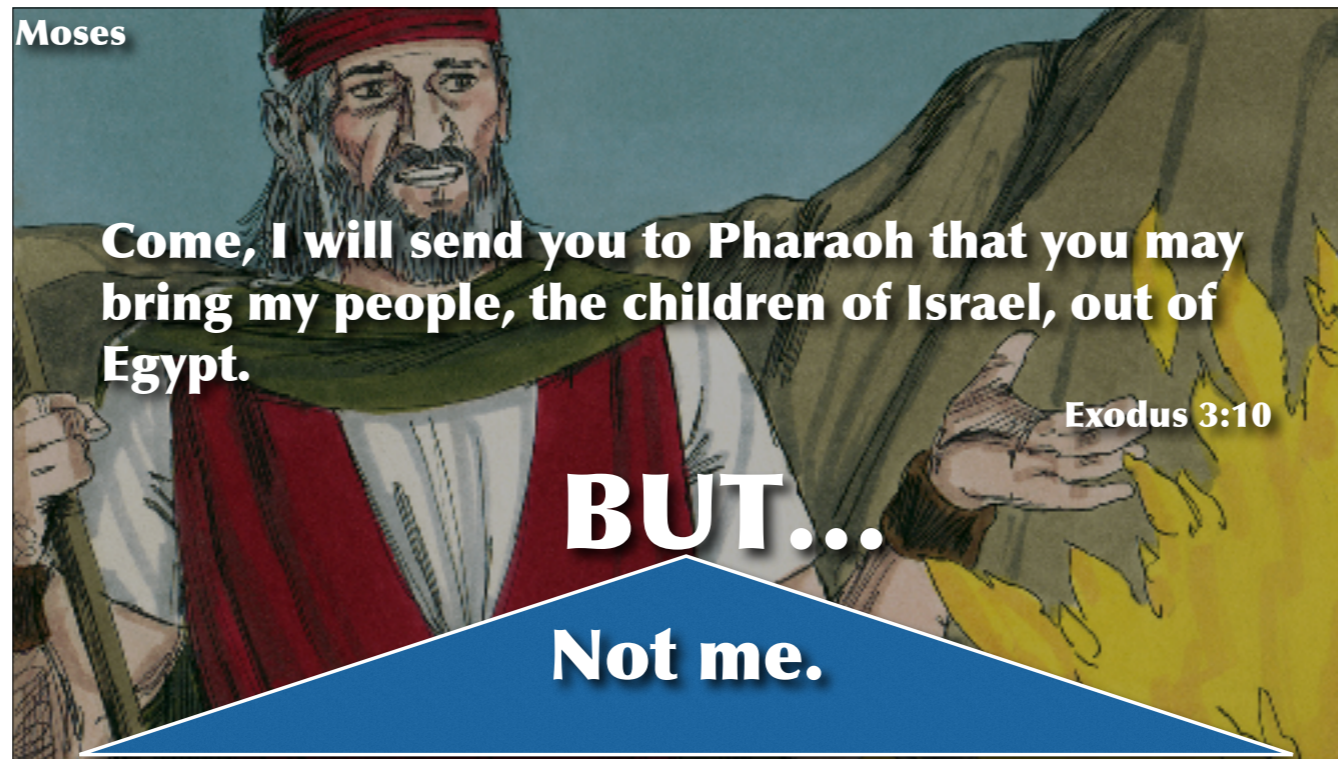
- Exodus 4:1-9 (ESV) 1 Then Moses answered, “But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you.’” 2 The Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.” 3 And he said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. 4 But the Lord said to Moses, “Put out your hand and catch it by the tail”—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand — 5 “that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.” 6 Again, the Lord said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. 7 Then God said, “Put your hand back inside your cloak.” So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. 8 “If they will not believe you,” God said, “or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign. 9 If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”



- Exodus 4:10-12 (ESV) 10 But Moses said to the Lord, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” 11 Then the Lord said to him, “Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.”



- Exodus 4:13-17 (ESV) 13 But he said, “Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.” 14 Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, “Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. 15 You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. 16 He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. 17 And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs.”



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Moses

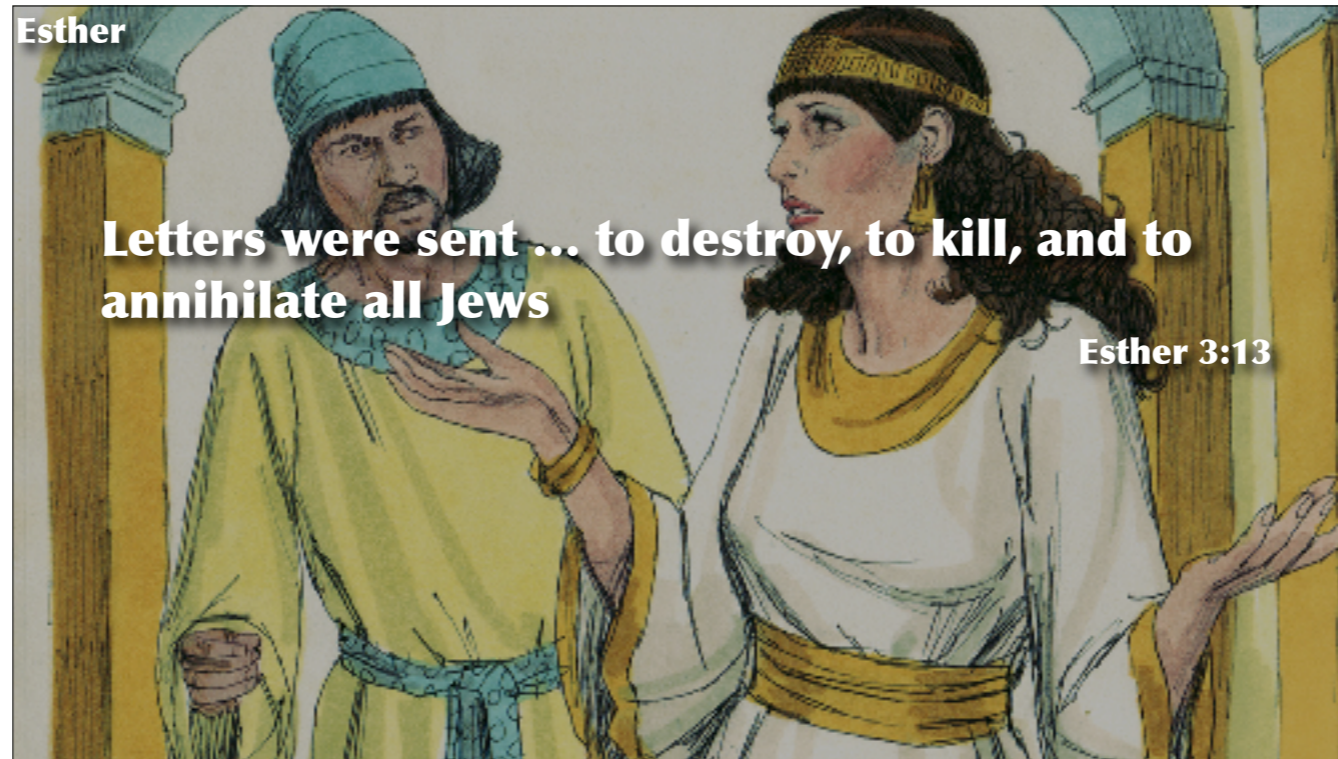
Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.

Exodus 3:10

- Does this sound like the same Moses of 40 years ago who tried to free his people?
- Jehovah answers everyone of Moses' excuses.
- Jehovah provides solutions for each problem Moses claims.
- Moses is the next man up!
- Moses is convinced and goes to Egypt.
- He's back in the game, but this time he's obeying Jehovah.



- Esther: a beautiful Jewish captive who is chosen to be queen.

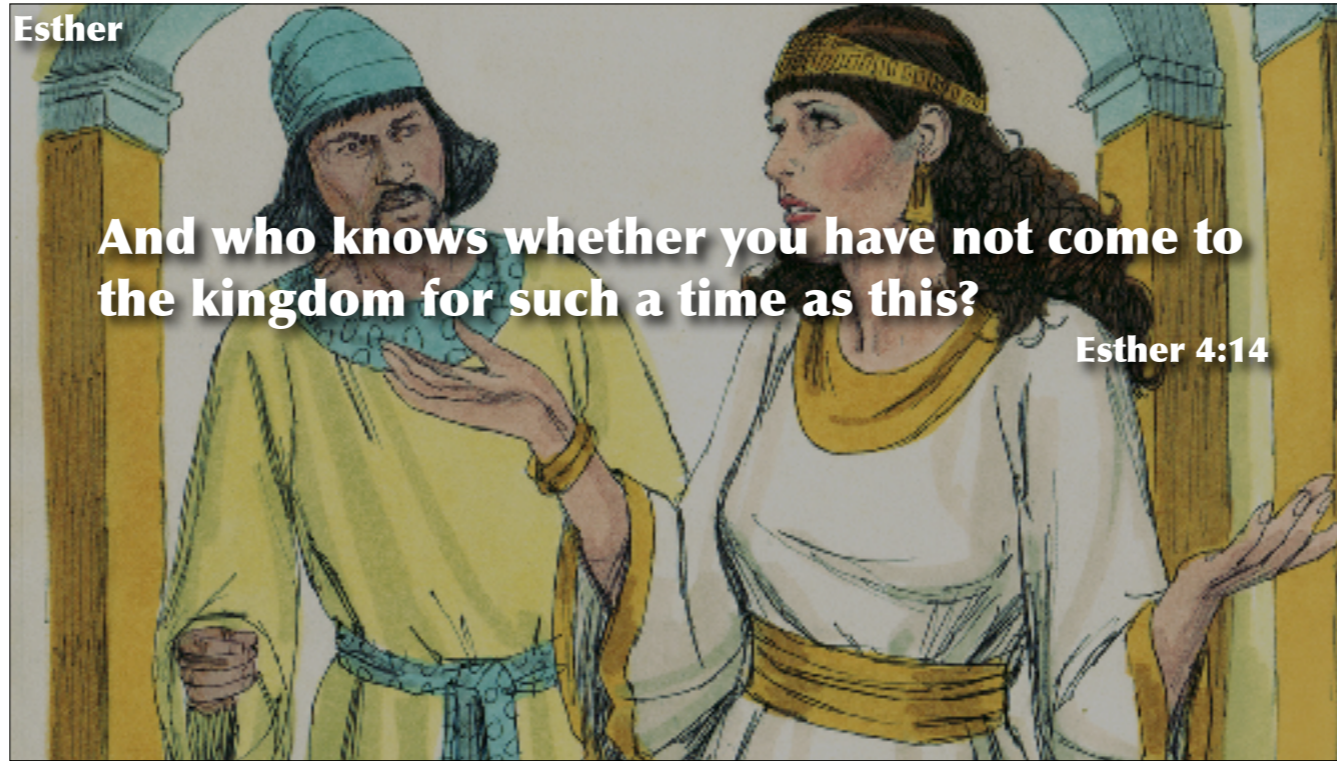


- Esther 3:13 (ESV) 13 Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.

Esther

And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Esther 4:14

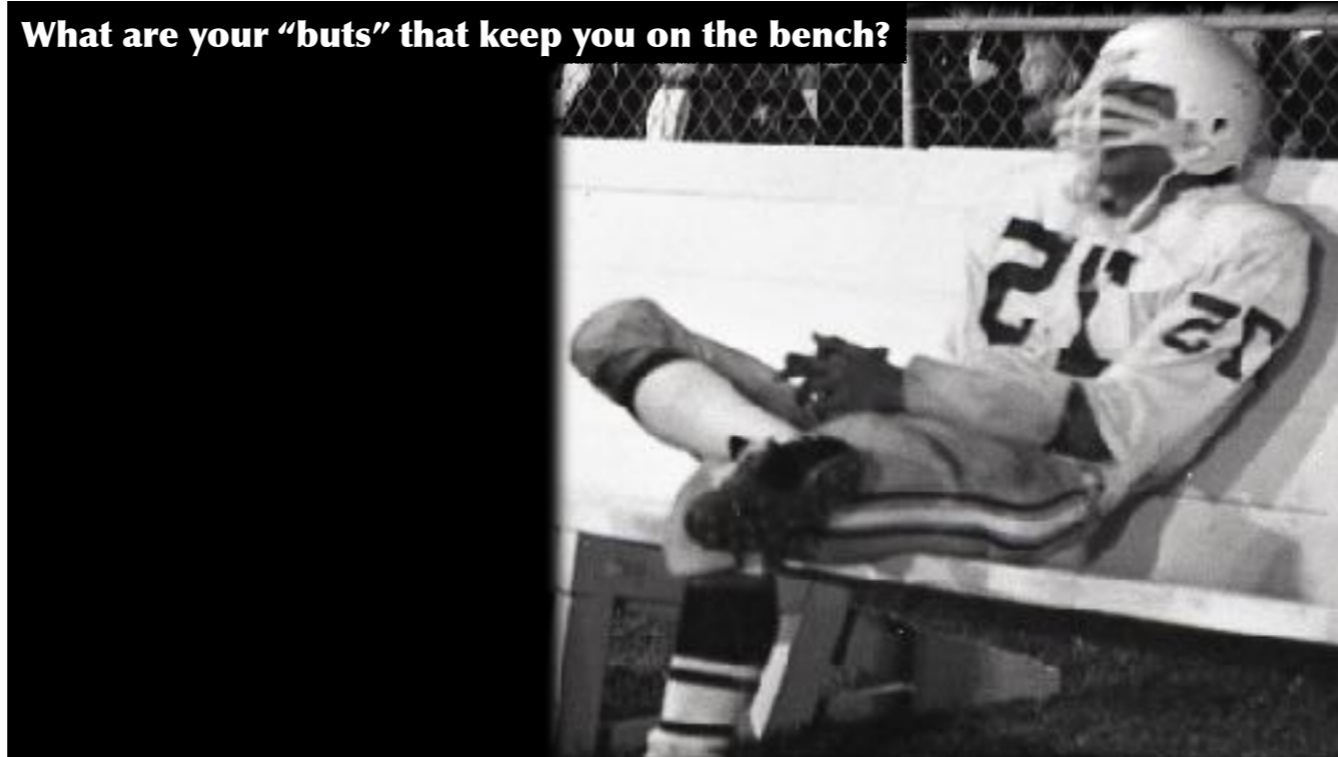


- Esther 4:12-14 (ESV) 12 And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. 13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”



- Ephesians 5:15-17 (ESV) 15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
- Is this a critical time for God's Kingdom?

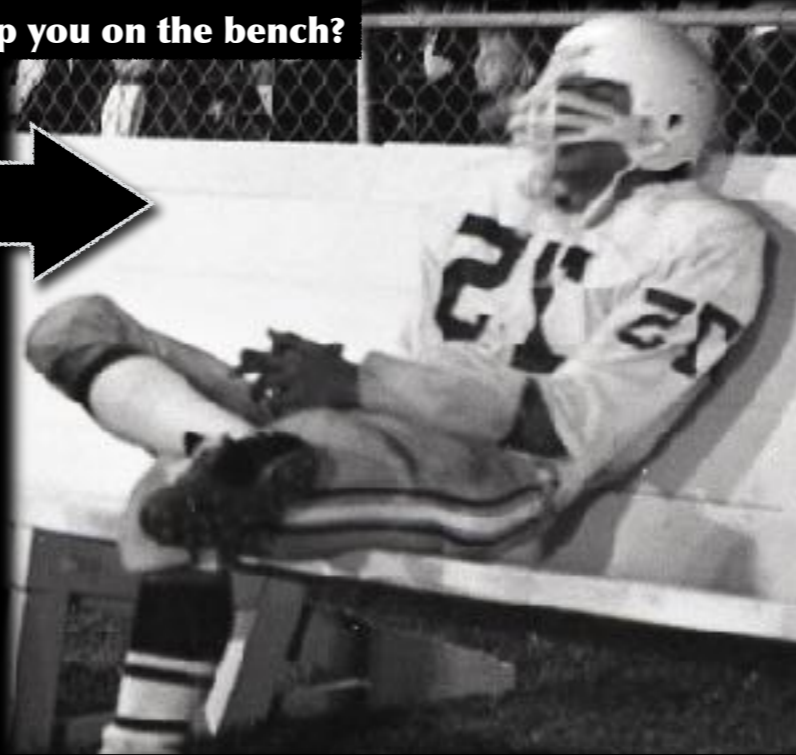
What are your “buts” that keep you on the bench?



- What are your “buts” that keep you on the bench?

What are your “buts” that keep you on the bench?

Who am I?

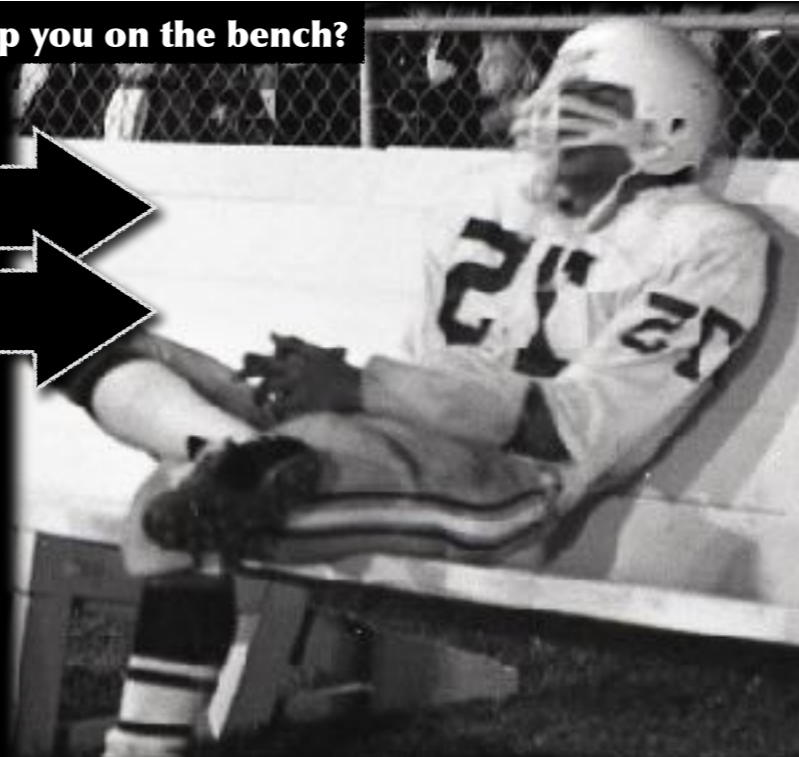


- Who am I?
 - I'm too insignificant to help at this time (false humility)
 - It's not my responsibility.
 - It's not my job.
- God said: "I will be with you" (Ex. 3:12)
 - It's not about me.
 - David v. Goliath

What are your “buts” that keep you on the bench?

Who am I?

I can't lead.

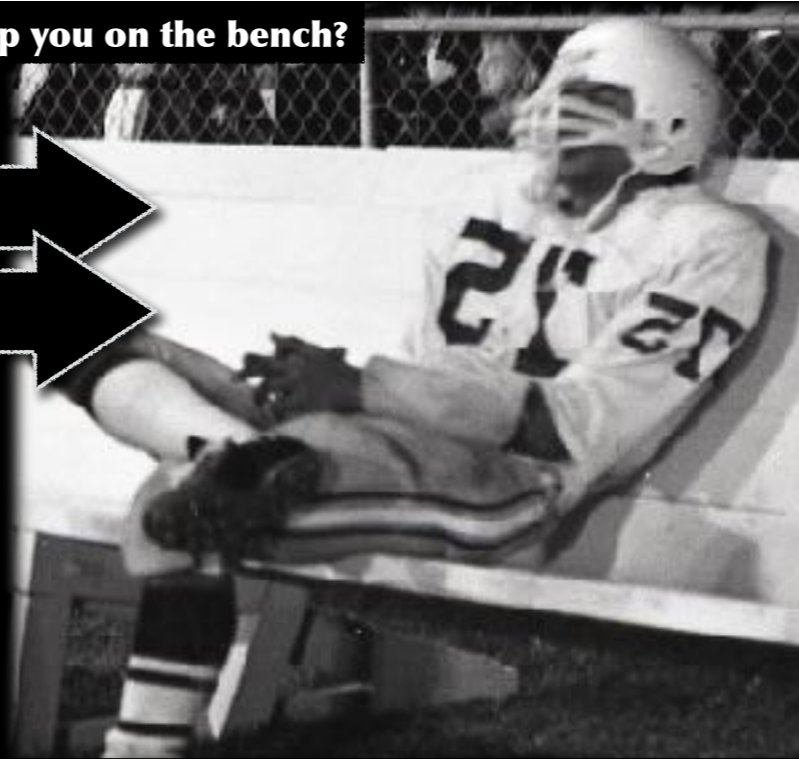


- I can't lead.
 - They won't believe me, or listen to me (Moses)
 - I don't have authority or power, so why would anyone follow me.
 - I'm not an elder, deacon, or preacher...
- God: signs — staff to serpent; leprous hand; water to blood
 - demonstrated authority from God

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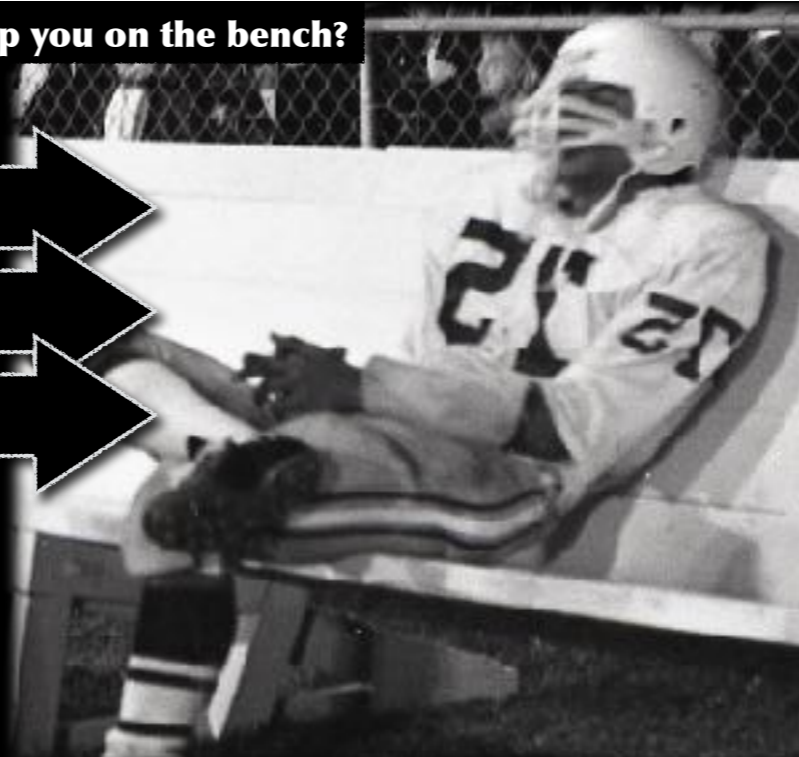
- Use God's word - correctly
- Do what needs to be done — as a servant
 - Mark 10:43-44 (ESV) 43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.

What are your “buts” that keep you on the bench?

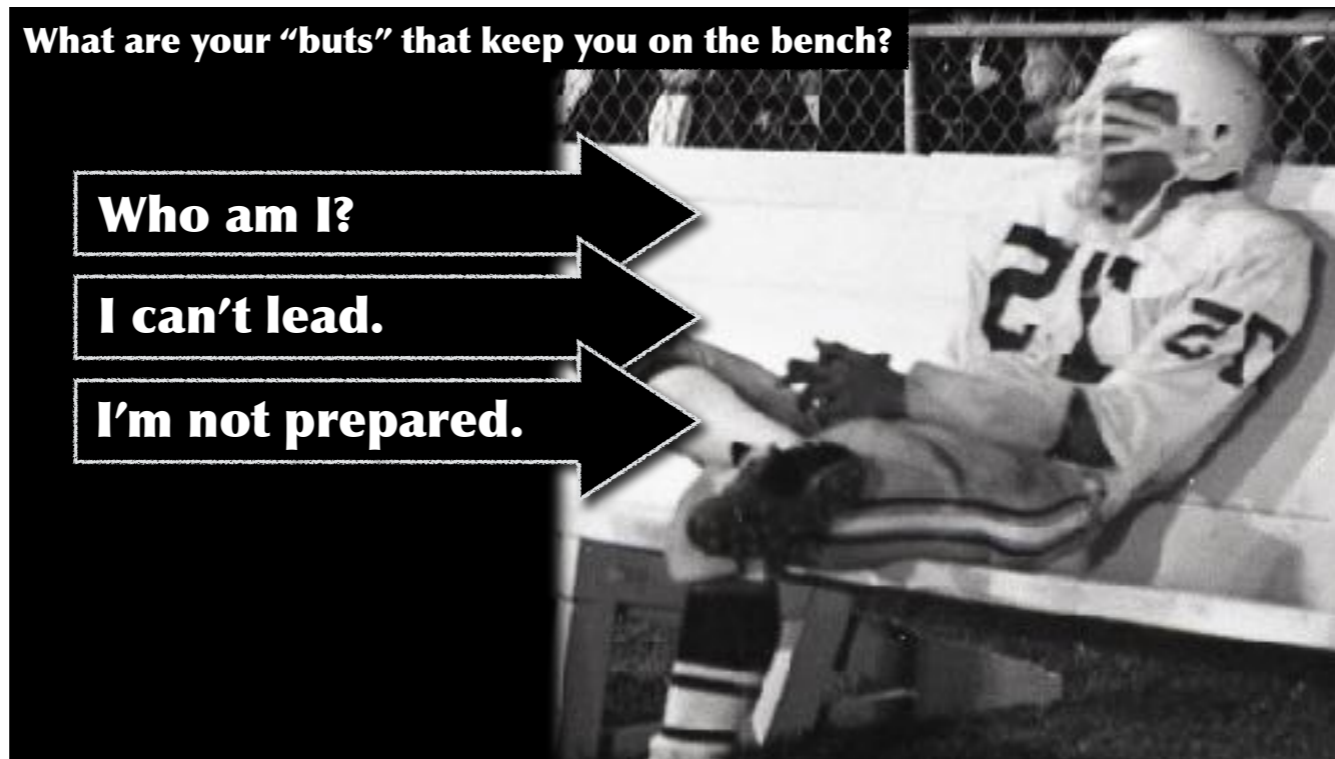
Who am I?

I can't lead.

I'm not prepared.



- I'm not prepared
 - Moses: I'm not eloquent, slow of speech and tongue
 - I haven't been trained to do this job.
 - I don't have the skills to do this job.



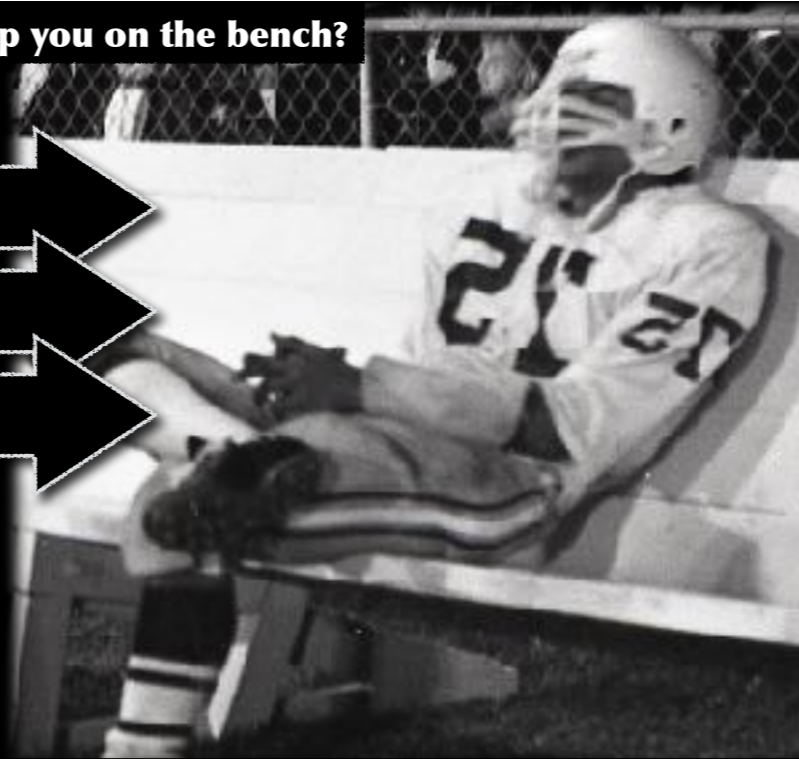
- God:
 - Exodus 4:11-12 (ESV) 11 Then the Lord said to him, “Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now therefore go, and **I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.**”

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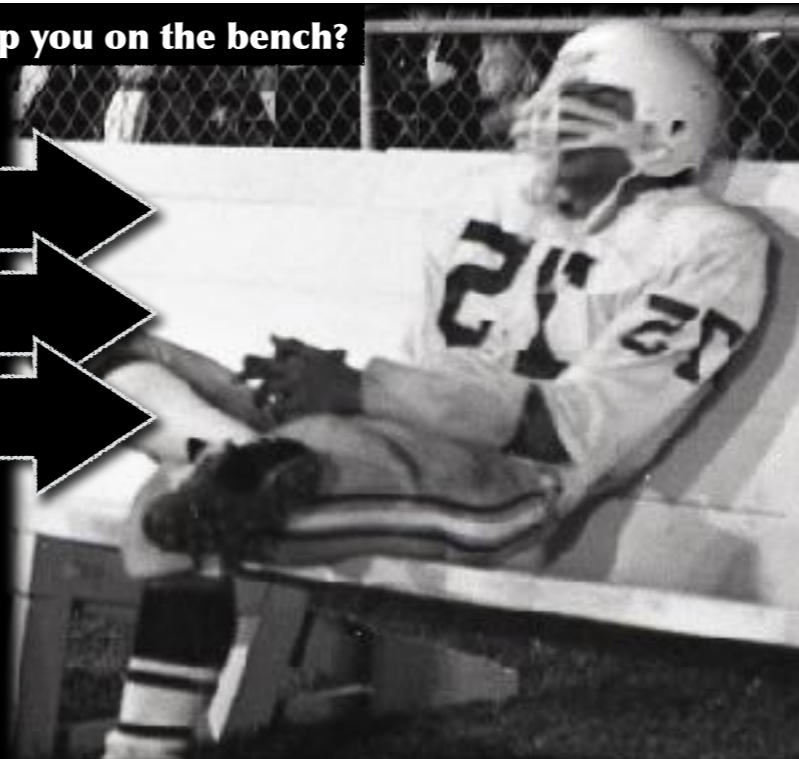
- Focus on God's gift, not yourself.
 - Ephesians 4:7 (ESV) But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

What are your “buts” that keep you on the bench?

Who am I?

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I'm not prepared.



- 1 Peter 4:10-11 (ESV) 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- Find someone to help you.

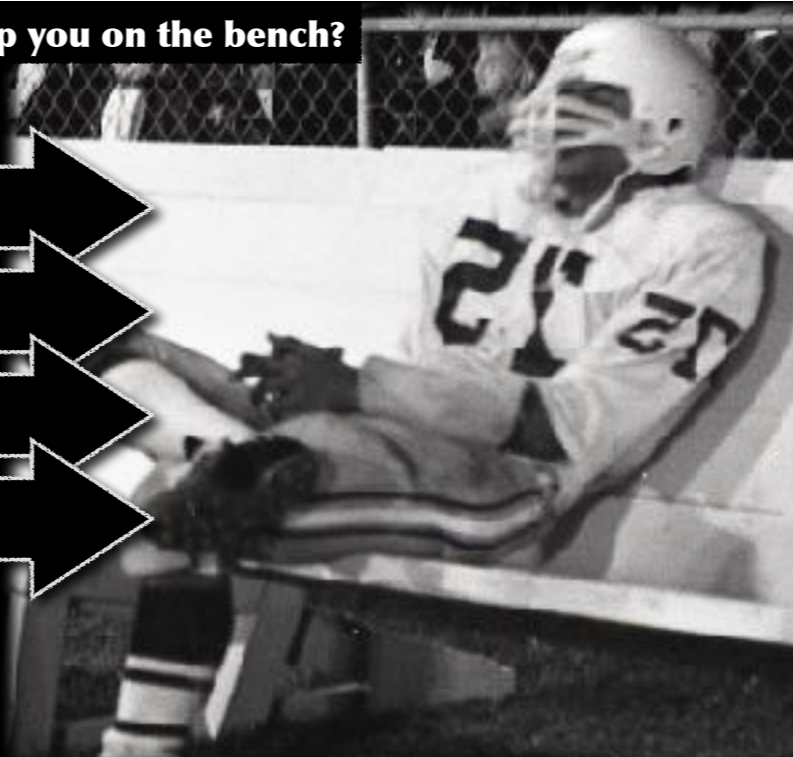
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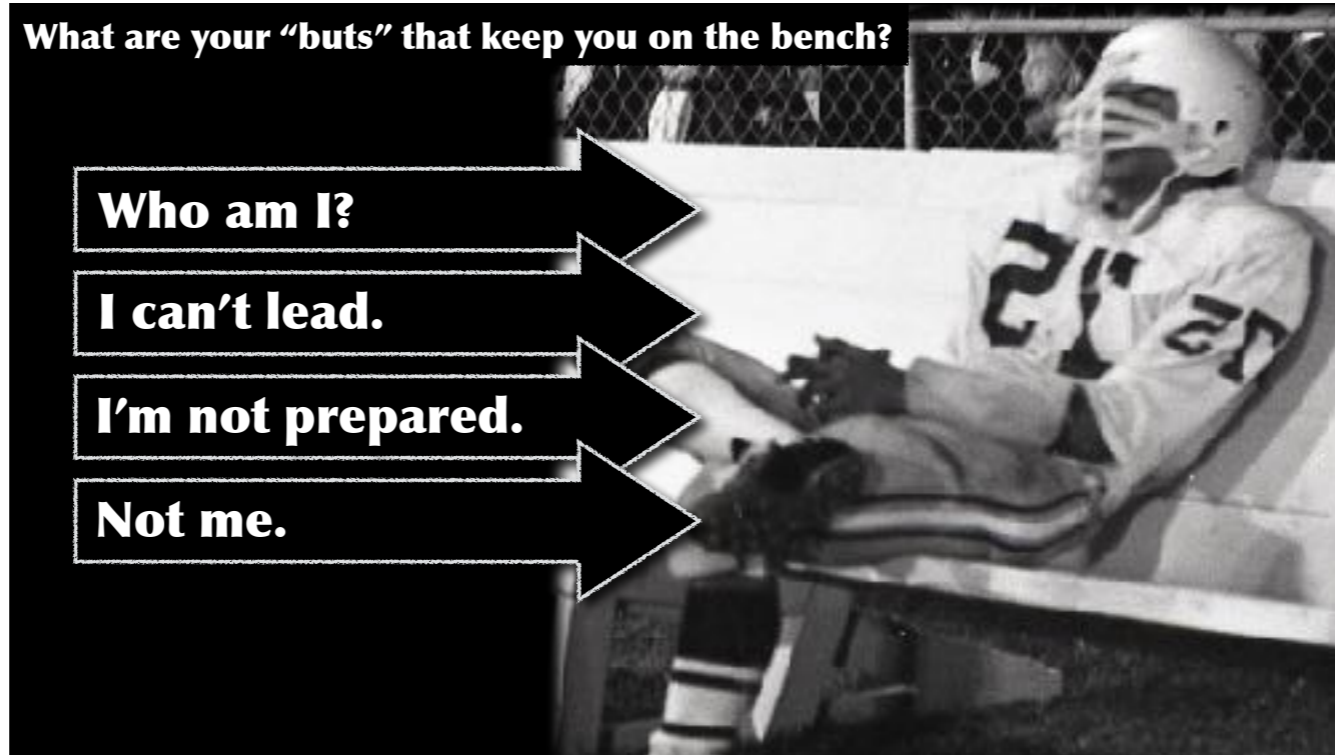
I can't lead.

I'm not prepared.

Not me.



- Not me
 - Moses: please send someone else.
 - Jehovah angry.
 - When a coach tells you to get out on the field, he wants you to go do your job.
 - Aaron your brother.



- This is just an unwillingness to do as God asks:
 - complacent
 - unwilling to change
 - unwilling to be challenged
 - unwilling to face dangers and difficulties
- Isaiah 6:8 (ESV) 8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”
- Find a brother to help you!

What are your “buts” that keep you on the bench?

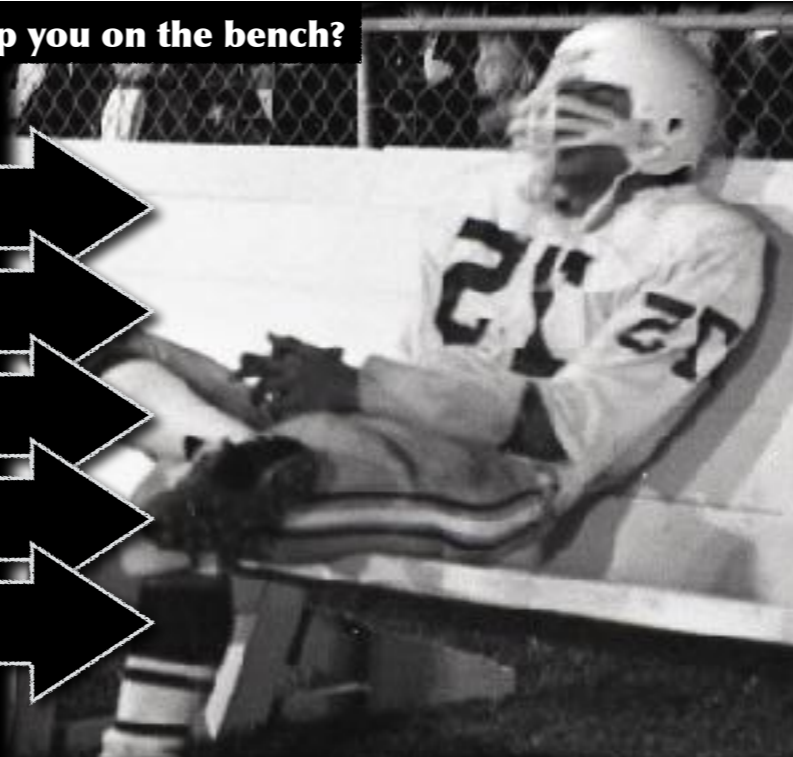
Who am I?

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I'm not prepared.

Not me.

It's not my time.



- Mordecai:
 - And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?
 - God's will is going to be accomplished.
 - You are here now, in this place
 - Maybe you don't have a clear mandate, a direct revelation

What are your “buts” that keep you on the bench?

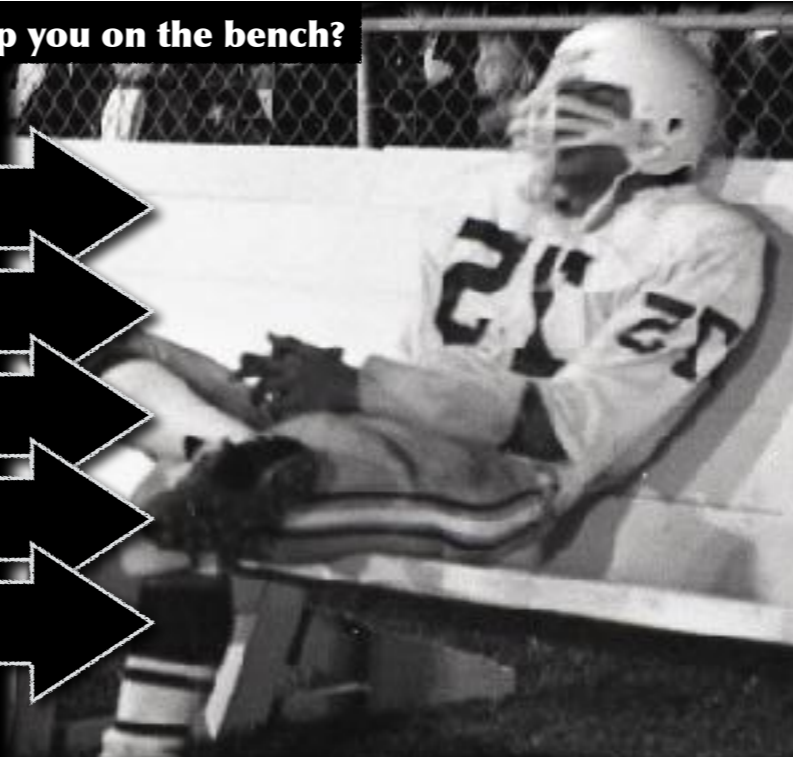
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- Esther:
 - Fast (implied prayer)
 - I will go ... If I perish, I perish
- Maybe it is your time!
- Go... “redeeming the time” (Eph. 4)

What are your “buts” that keep you on the bench?

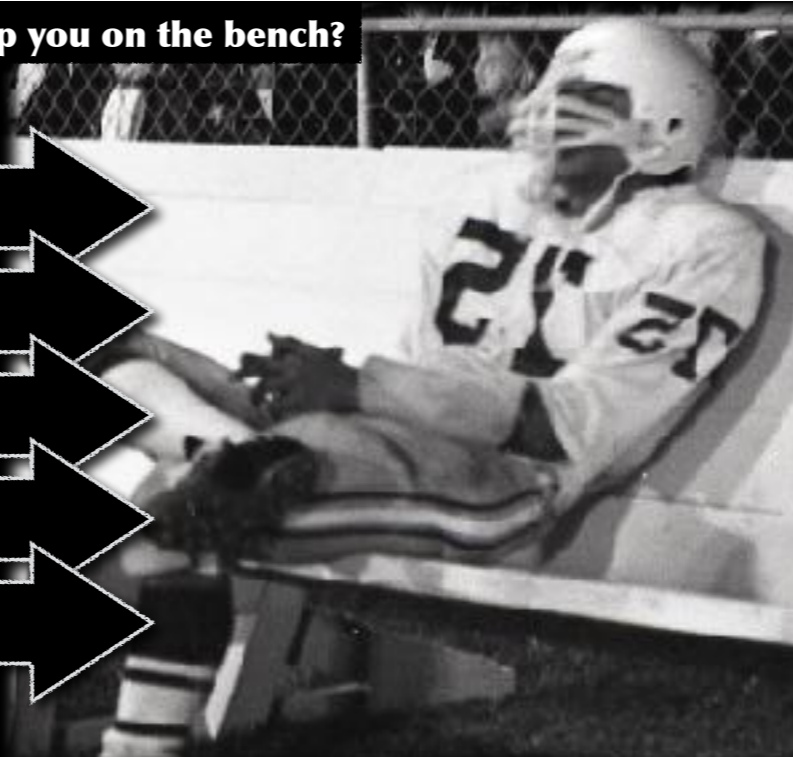
Who am I?

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I'm not prepared.

Not me.

It's not my time.



- Are you sitting on the bench?
 - Do you want to get in the game?
- Is it time for you to get in the game?
- What are your reasons for not getting in the game?

What are your "buts" that keep you on the bench?

Who am I?

I can't lead.

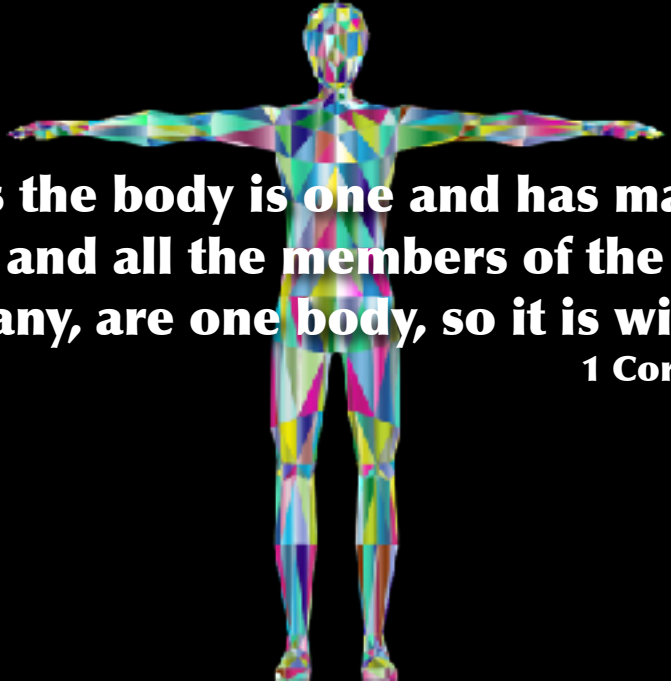
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Not me.

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Flawed Analogy

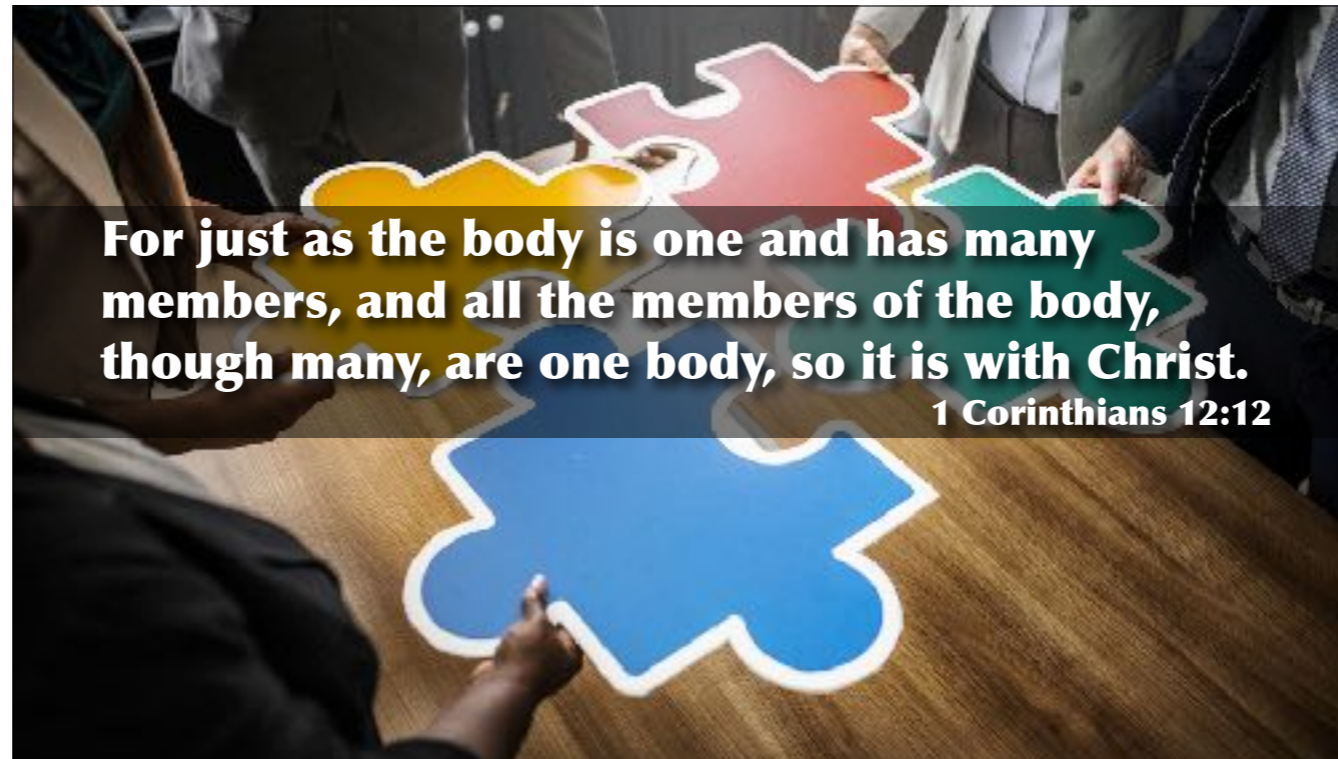
- This is a flawed analogy!
- God never uses football (or any sport) as an analogy for his kingdom.



For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (ESV) 12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many.



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- 1 Corinthians 12:24 (ESV) But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,



- Ephesians 4:16 (ESV) 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.
 - There is no bench!
 - This is not a game.
 - If we are going to grow we must use the gift given to us by God to serve one another.



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 - There is no bench!
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 - If we are going to grow we must use the gift given to us by God to serve one another.



- You are the next man up.
- What are you going to DO?
 - Stop asking what do I HAVE to do. (resigned and sighing)
 - What MORE may I do? (With enthusiasm)

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Next Man Up

Exodus 3-4

Synopsis: Football has an expression for what happens when a key player is injured and a substitute must enter the game to play for him. The next man up is the one who must come in and do everything expected by the coach so that the team can succeed. Unfortunately, too many Christians are sitting on the bench and are not ready (emotionally!) to get in the game. Moses provides an example of a man who was eager to save God's people but ended up removing himself from the service of God and when told by God to go is full of reasons why he shouldn't go. What is keeping you from getting into the game. (Bonus: the analogy is flawed!)

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"Let all that you do be done with love."