

FAITHFUL TO THE END
THE POWER OF COMMITMENT IN SERVICE

WHAT ARE WE COMMITTING TO?



Serving is not volunteering

It is serving Christ Himself in the people entrusted to you.

It is a calling, not a convenience

We answer the way the first disciples did, leaving their nets at once.

It is proven over time

Not a good feeling on a good day, but showing up again and again, especially when it costs you.

BEFORE COMMITTING TO SERVICE, I MUST BE COMMITTED TO GOD

- **Begin inwards:** Who is God to me and what do I know of Him?
- **Acknowledge your weakness:** no eternal value without the work of the Holy Spirit
- **Ascend with Him daily:** allotting time in my day for spiritual growth

Our church reminds us of our commitments to the faith:

- Baptism
- The Creed
- Confession

“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

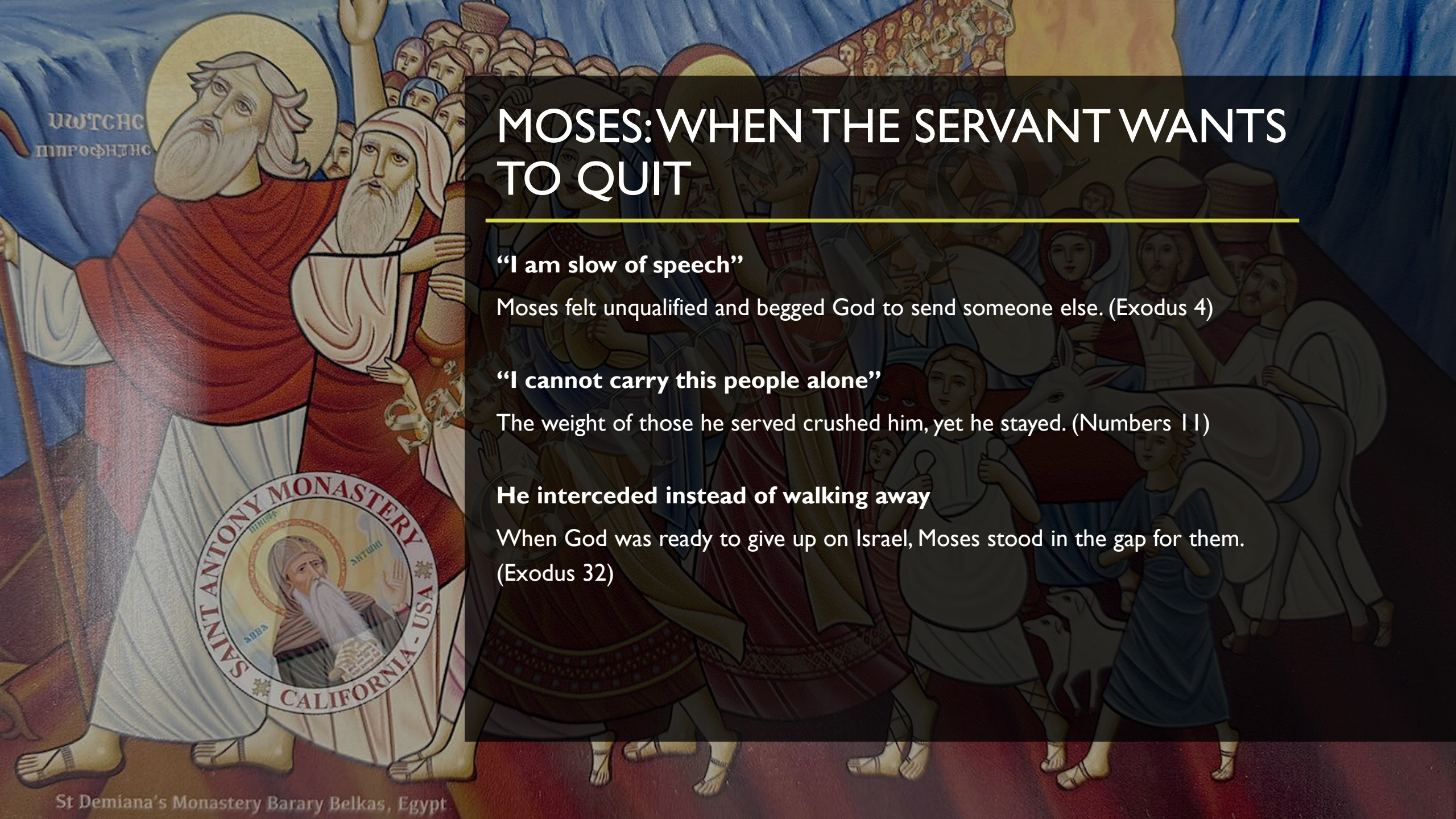
~1 Timothy 4:16



CHRIST AS THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE

- Christ's commitment to His mission; shows us the model of faithful service.
- He glorified God through His earthly work.
- The completion of His mission inspires our dedication.

John 17:4 - "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do."



MOSES: WHEN THE SERVANT WANTS TO QUIT

“I am slow of speech”

Moses felt unqualified and begged God to send someone else. (Exodus 4)

“I cannot carry this people alone”

The weight of those he served crushed him, yet he stayed. (Numbers 11)

He interceded instead of walking away

When God was ready to give up on Israel, Moses stood in the gap for them. (Exodus 32)

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

ROLEPLAY I – I'M TOO BUSY

Karim is generally inconsistent in his attendance at youth group because he usually has other social gatherings on Friday nights. Karim has not taught a lesson in two months. Magdy approaches him and asks “Karim, can you please prepare the lesson two weeks from now?”. In two weeks he has his best friend’s Birthday Party scheduled.

What would you do?

- a) Accept the lesson and plan to leave immediately after to go to the birthday party late
- b) Excuse himself from giving a lesson as usual
- c) Switch his lesson for the coming week and prepare it last minute
- d) Notify Magdy and ask him to prepare the lesson for the third week
- e) Excuse himself from the birthday party and make it up to his friend another day

ROLEPLAY 2 – I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY

Karim has been showing up to youth group once every three weeks. Magdy is concerned with his attendance and reaches out to him.

Karim responds: “Sorry Magdy, I just work so much during the week and then I see family on the weekend, and I’m usually just too tired to come on Fridays”

What would you do?

- a) Show up two weeks in a row and return to serving inconsistently
- b) Excuse himself from the service because he is not very committed
- c) Pray and ask God for strength, re-assess his schedule and priorities to see if he can improve his attendance and then decide if he should continue with the service



ROLEPLAY 3 – I DON'T LIKE THE PEOPLE

Karim is fed up with Magdy's style of teaching because Magdy is old fashioned. Magdy also criticized Karim's lesson last week because he used the word "Mass" instead of "Liturgy".

What would you do?

- a) Leave the service out of anger
- b) Discuss with Abouna about switching to another service
- c) Ignore Magdy's criticism and not show up whenever it's Magdy's turn to teach
- d) Ask Magdy about an explanation for the criticism and give him a few suggestions on how to use more modern tools in his teaching

ROLEPLAY 4 – I'M NOT FIT TO SERVE

Karim just graduated from university in another city and is finally returning back to Toronto. He has not been at St. Mark's consistently for a few years now and feels out of place. He also has not focused on his spiritual life during his university years. Mark approaches him to help out in the Sunday School service.

What would you do?

- a) Avoid Mark's calls so he doesn't have to answer his request
- b) Evaluate his desire to serve with his spiritual father and determine which service is the most suitable to him, if any
- c) Accept the request because he is embarrassed to say no and do the minimum required of him

ARE YOU A FAN

OR FOLLOWER?

A Fan of Christ

- Serves from a distance as a **duty**
- Serves only when **convenient**
- Takes **no initiative** in his service

A Follower of Christ

- Serves at his highest capacity with **love**
- Serves even when **tired**
- Shows up **consistently** without shame

**If serving has cost you nothing,
Your service is in vain**

“For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know who I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”

~2 Timothy 1:12



STRIKE THE SHEPHERD AND THE SHEEP WILL BE SCATTERED

As a servant, you are a shepherd to those entrusted to you.
They follow your example long before they follow your words.

small choices = **BIG IMPACTS**

When the shepherd grows cold, the sheep scatter.
Your faithfulness is the antidote.

