

# Exodus 4:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.

## Analysis

**And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send** (וַיֹּאמֶר בְּאָדָם שְׁלַח־נָא בְּיַד־תִּשְׁלַח) — Moses' ultimate objection: **send... by the hand of him whom thou wilt send** — essentially, "send anyone but me!" This is no longer legitimate concern about ability but willful resistance. Moses has exhausted objections (credibility, v. 1; eloquence, v. 10) and now simply refuses. The Hebrew phrase (בְּיַד־תִּשְׁלַח), *beyad-tishlach*) is ambiguous, sometimes interpreted "send by the hand [of someone] you will send [in the future]," possibly alluding prophetically to the coming Messiah. Regardless, Moses' resistance provokes God's anger (v. 14) — patience has limits. God's sovereignty means He'll accomplish His purposes, with or without our enthusiastic cooperation, though He prefers willing servants.

## Historical Context

This exchange shows Moses' profound transformation from the impulsive youth who killed the Egyptian (2:12) to the overly cautious shepherd afraid of leadership. Forty years of Midian humbled Moses, but now he needed balance—neither arrogant self-confidence nor paralyzing self-doubt, but God-dependent confidence. God's anger (v. 14) was pedagogical, not vindictive—teaching Moses that calling isn't negotiable.

## Related Passages

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. When have you responded to God's clear call with 'send someone else,' and what were the consequences?
2. How do you discern the difference between legitimate concerns about calling and sinful resistance to God's will?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאַדְנֵךְ בְּ יָדְךָ תִּשְׁלַח: אַדְנֵךְ בְּ יָדְךָ תִּשְׁלַח:

And he said O my Lord of him whom thou wilt send H4994  
H559 H994 H136 H7971

בְּ יָדְךָ תִּשְׁלַח:

I pray thee by the hand of him whom thou wilt send  
H3027 H7971

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 4:1** (References Lord): And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.

**Jonah 1:3** (References Lord): But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.