

# BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

## Learning from Those Who Walked Before Us

### WHAT MOSES TAUGHT WITH HIS LIFE

Exodus

INTRODUCTION: Great to see you!

New folks – NEXT STEPS

- To become a Christian
- To connect with more than just worship
- To join our church
- To serve or be involved in ministry

Last Wednesday night we were talking about how God inspired, literally breathed out His Word, to the various human instruments in the writing of the Scriptures. Thursday as I was preparing this message, I thought about Moses, and how God used several different means of inspiration to give to Moses the first five books of our Bible.

- God used inscription in personally writing the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone and giving them to Moses.
- God used dictation multiple times in telling Moses to write the words God spoke to him.
- But God also used eyewitness reporting as Moses wrote what he saw, such as his description of the burning bush, the opening of the Red Sea, and the Fiery Presence of the Living God on top of Mt. Sinai as the Almighty offered a covenant to the people of Israel.

Moses was a man to whom all of us are greatly indebted for being a faithful recipient of the Word God breathed out, carefully recording it, and preserving it through the wilderness wanderings of the moody and sometimes outright rebellious people of Israel.

This morning I want us to learn from Moses, but not so much from the law and commandments of God which he was privileged to be the first to record, but from his life

...

- His own personal encounters with God
- His own walk with the Lord

- His own struggles and victories in his journey through life with YHWH, the Great I Am.

## **THE LIFE MOSES WAS TO LIVE WAS PREPARED BY GOD.**

- the timing of his birth, during the ban on Hebrew baby boys
- faithful parents
- adoption by Pharaoh's daughter
- his Egyptian education and training
- a sensitive heart - to God and to men, caused him to grieve over the mistreatment of his people

Some parts of this, Moses must have wondered about early in his life, "Why me, God?"

Yet he came to see God's wisdom, love, and careful planning in every preparation God made.

## **HAVE YOU DISCOVERED GOD'S PREPARATION IN YOUR LIFE FOR GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU?**

Teens, young adult, all adults... Rather than being angry with God over what He allowed in your life, look for how God was shaping you.

- When Hurricane Michael hit, I knew the basics of how to lead our church to do disaster relief to our community even though our own facility and many of our members, including Karen and I, were themselves terribly impacted by the storm.

How?

- God prepared me by having me lead my church to minister to Slidell following Hurricane Katrina. And in that preparation, I learned things that helped me in Michael.
  - I learned to evacuate far enough from the storm to both be safe and be able to come back strong.
    - In Katrina, we only went north 75 miles. Not enough. Had to move family. No resources available. I had to move family 175 miles to an office building, rent furniture, get supplies, before I could begin to start helping in Slidell.
    - So it was my practice when a hurricane threatened to reserve a room out of the danger zone before they were all booked and then cancel if not needed.

- So in Michael, I reserved a room in Montgomery. We stayed safe. We bought gas, tarps, water, and groceries and came back Friday morning. We started Disaster Relief on the front parking lot Saturday.
- God prepared me for Katrina with some flooding in Slidell years earlier.
  - In that flood our church and home were unaffected.
  - Our church became a source of resources and help to flooded neighborhoods.
  - I learned to drive a forklift!
- God prepared me to minister in that flood by being personally involved in flood relief in a flood of smaller scale on the west edge of Slidell.
- God prepared me for that one, by my own home flooding along with thousands of others in a flash flood in Tulsa, OK.

Folks, I am just trying to illustrate a biblical principle we see in Moses' life, and I have recognized applies to my own life as well.

## **GOD PREPARES US FOR THINGS HE WANTS TO DO IN OUR LIVES FOR HIS GLORY.**

- Think through how God has done this in your own life.
- As you more clearly see how God has prepared you, you can be quicker to respond when God gives you opportunity.

## **MOSES SURRENDERED TO GOD'S CALLING IN SPITE OF HIS SHORTCOMINGS.**

Exodus 3:1–10 NKJV 1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

4 So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." 6 Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

7 And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Now, at this point, I suspect we all identify with Moses.

Moses begins to recite all of his shortcomings, the reasons he cannot do what the Lord has called him to do. For the next 29 verses, Moses argues with God.

Moses	God
Who am I to go to Pharaoh?	I will be with you.
What is Your Name?	I Am Who I Am, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
They will not believe me.	The sign of the rod. The sign of leprosy. (Remember this next time you want to ask God for a sign!) The sign of water to blood.
I do not talk well.	I made your mouth. I will send Aaron to be your spokesman.

But here is the victory:

Exodus 4:20 NKJV Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

## **MOSES SURRENDERED TO GOD'S CALLING IN SPITE OF HIS SHORTCOMINGS.**

CAN EACH OF US SAY THAT? OR ARE WE STILL ARGUING WITH GOD?

- Is there something God's Word says you ought to do?

- The Holy Spirit has convicted you, making specific application in your life?
  - Just for instance, concerning VBS
  - You know the Word of God tells us to train our children.
  - You know the Word of God tells us to make disciples.
  - When we talk about this application of that truth by doing another VBS
  - You even sensed a moment of conviction from the Spirit about being a part of that.
  - But you may have said,
    - “Man, I’ve done that for years and years. It’s somebody else’s turn!”
      - Then maybe God doesn’t need to leave you here any longer if you’re through serving Him!
    - Or maybe you said, “Lord I can’t because of this or that.”
      - If you sense conviction of the Spirit, do you think He does not know about your “this or that?”
- Listen, we all have shortcomings; we all have valid excuses in our own eyes for not responding to the call of the Lord.
- One of the incredibly important things each of us should learn from Moses’ life is the victory, the joy, the fulfillment that comes from saying YES to God.

### **IN OBEYING GOD, TRUSTING HIM AS HIS STRENGTH AND POWER, MOSES FOUND HIS JOY, FULFILLMENT, AND MEANING IN LIFE.**

- Moses defied Pharaoh, the most powerful human being in the world at that time, and he lived to tell about it – because He obeyed God!
- Moses got to be God’s human instrument to break the obstinance of the king, to break his wicked heart, and to set Moses’ own people free from slavery – because he said YES to the call of God.
- Moses got to see the power of God poured out as he held high the rod of God over the depths of the Red Sea and the waters separated into a wall on the right and the left, and a wind dried the seabed in just a few moments, so that the people of Israel could walk through – because he trusted God’s ability even when worried about his own inability.
- Moses was privileged to write down the law of God and deliver it to Israel.

- He was chosen to oversee the building and dedication of the Tabernacle.
- God chose Moses to lead Israel through the wilderness. God selected Moses to write the first five books of our Bible which are foundational for the rest of the Word of God.
- All of this because Moses trusted the Lord and obeyed Him.

ARE YOU, AT THIS MOMENT, LIVING A MEANINGFUL, FULFILLING LIFE, OBEYING AND TRUSTING GOD AS YOUR STRENGTH AND POWER?

- Friend, God has prepared you to serve Him this day and all the days He gives you life.
- God will show His strength through your weakness if you will just say YES to Him and do what He calls you to do.
- And in faith and obedience you will find more fulfilment and satisfaction in the living of your life than most people ever do.

My friend, listen

- If you have not trusted Jesus, who died on the cross for your sin, and offers forgiveness and eternal life to those who trust and follow Him, if you want to learn more about this, go to our Next Steps desk at the close of worship.
- If you are a Christ follower, look back on your life and see how the Lord has prepared your life to serve and follow Christ. Then find the ways you can use that preparation for His glory.
- As God calls you to serve Him
  - Be an active, working, supporting part of His church, the bride of Christ.
  - Say YES to what the Lord tells you in His Word.
  - Say YES to the applications of that word the Spirit makes in your life.