

MOSES, THE GREAT LIBERATOR, PART II

Exodus 3:1-10

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Exodus 3:1-10

¹Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. ²And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. ³And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. ⁴And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. ⁵And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

⁶Moreover he said, I am the God of thy 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. ⁷And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; ⁸And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

¹⁰Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

God had a plan for Moses' life; he was a marked man whom God had chosen to liberate the children of Israel. They were suffering terribly under the hand of a cruel pharaoh.

God had seen the affliction of His people, heard their groans, and Moses was God's answer to their freedom.

Moses was no accident. Every detail of his life was planned out by God: from his birth by Godly parents who saw the hand of God upon his life for service, to Pharaoh's daughter drawing him out of the water to raise as her own son. God did not miss a thing in this man's life. From Pharaoh's palace to 40 years of silence and monotony in the backside of a desert, to the very day God would call to him from a burning bush to deliver His people, Moses had been drawn out from death in God's purpose. He was meant to draw out His people from death out of the land of Egypt. God never draws out a man from death and spiritual separation from God, but that He gives to him a spiritual new birth with a divine mission of drawing out others from death to life.

I. A Man Who Knew He Had Been Called: Moses' Failure In His Youth

Acts 7:23 "And when he was full 40 years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel.²⁴ And seeing one of them suffering wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian:²⁵ For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not."

The next day Moses saw two of his brethren fighting with each other and tried to make peace between them.

"²⁷ But he that did his neighbor wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?"

When this was made known to Pharaoh, he sought to kill Moses and he fled and was a stranger in the land of Midian.

It would be forty years until Moses would hear from God again at the Burning Bush.

Moses knew from a young man that he had been called, and thought his people understood it, but they were too blind to see it.

Moses was willing to give up everything he had in Egypt to serve and help his people. It was something that came into his heart to do for them. It was God Who had put it into his heart.

His desires and intentions were in the right place and his heart was genuine, but his way of getting God's work done was wrong. God did not want Moses killing people to get His work done, nor did He want Moses running ahead of Him. Moses was doing God's work in his own strength, in his own way, and right now! God works through a knowledge of our human weaknesses, patience and sound wisdom.

The people were blind to the God-given leadership of Moses over them with a contempt and hatred for him. They questioned Moses' authority and his motives – "Who made thee a prince and a judge over us?" – It would be God who did!

1,500 years later these same kinds of people would question Jesus' authority and His right to lead them. Rebellion is in the heart of man.

His very own people whom he loved and cared about shoved him out, breaking his spirit and his confidence. As far as he was concerned, he was a useless failure. What had it been all about?

II. Failure Doesn't Mean It Is The End – Moses Runs Off Into The Desert Right Where God Wants Him To Be

Through a stupid and irrational move and a lack of experience, his people had caught him in a trap and he could do nothing about it but run away. They had something over Moses because he was only human and made mistakes.

Moses had killed an Egyptian in trying to do the right thing and save one of his brethren but it backfired on him and it would be used against him. Have you ever made any poor judgment in an irrational move that people could use against you? The good he tried to do became an attack on his character; "Wilt thou kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday? Then fled Moses at this saying and was a stranger in the land of Midian where he begot two sons." (Acts 7:28,29) It was there in the desert in no-man's land that he would spend the next forty years of his life in a place of loneliness, hardship and painful memories. Moses would have reflected endlessly on what went wrong and why he had failed. Where was God in all this and how could he have ever thought he was God's man? When he sacrificed everything to do the right thing, how could he end up where he was, with no one, nobody but shepherding a few sheep in a hot, barren land, away from everything? Many of God's

people have ended up in these kinds of places because people misjudged them and were critical.

God never does His work through our lives until He has done a work in our lives. There are no shortcuts or any quick roads to success.

God doesn't just overstep what He has for us to learn from Him, but slowly builds our character to serve Him faithfully and intelligently. It is in knowing the ways of God and how He works.

These things can only be learned through time alone with God, a true reflection upon our selves and who God wants us to become. It is there we learn of our human weaknesses, how small we are in ourselves; a nobody without God. It is in our humbling experiences that our strengths in the past were to our downfall, and apart from God's strength working through a humble servant, our strengths will only get in the way. We are nothing in ourselves when it comes to serving the Lord and we must learn the hard way, and through our many failures and mistakes. We all fail but it is not the end but a means to a new beginning, starting all over again, at least knowing what not to do.

What person hasn't failed a thousand times for whom the grace of God is not sufficient to get us back on our feet, going again for Him, a little bit wiser. In the grace of God, in endless chances and new opportunities, failure doesn't have to be failure unless you let it be and quit trying.

God is not going to leave Moses in failure but in His grace meet up with him again, redirecting his life, and sending him back in service to Him.

III. Out Of Nowhere, On A Very Ordinary Day – God Is At Work – He Engages Moses, Speaks To Him, Sending Him On His Mission (Acts 7:30-34, Ex. 2:23-25; 3:9,10)

Acts 7:30 “And when forty years had passed, there appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.”

The Book of Acts gives us a commentary of Moses' journey with God through the sermon of Stephen.

Moses had not heard from God for the last 40 years of his life, and as far as he knew he would never hear from God again. God had not forsaken him, nor abandoned him in spite of those silent years. It was in the wilderness that God was preparing His servant to

lead His people. In the passing of a great time, it was now time for God to act in His time, and in His own way.

Moses could never have expected that God was going to step into his life and engage him with a command to get up and go for Him. God uses a common bush to speak to him.

When God speaks to us it will be through very ordinary ways. We need to pay close attention to how God guides us in His purposes and what He wants us to do.

There is nothing about this day nor anything about the events surrounding him that would make Moses think, “O, God is going to speak to me today”. Everything is ordinary including Moses’ opinion of himself. He is in a wilderness, without anything spectacular written across the sky; it’s a common day with no unusual things happening. He is surrounded by everyday, common bushes with nothing in themselves that would say God is about to do something spectacular and give guidance to His servant.