

## The Power of a Changed Mind Exodus 2:11-15

**11** One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. **12** Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

**13** The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?" **14** The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known."

**15** When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.

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### Outline:

#### Introduction summarizing Exodus 1-2:10

##### Chapter 1:

- Joseph is successful in Egypt and brings over his family to live but eventually dies.
- Israel grows from 70 to 600,000 in number and lives in peace until the king dies and another arises.
- The new king is afraid of the Israelites and oppresses them but the more he oppressed them, the more they multiplied.
- Out of fear, the king made the decision to kill the sons of the Israelites.
- He attempted this through the midwives but they feared the Lord so he had his people throw every son born to the Hebrews into the Nile but let the daughters live.

##### Chapter 2:1-10

- A Levite woman married and became pregnant.
- She bore a son and hid him for 3 months. When she could not hide him any longer, she got a basket for him and placed the child in the basket and set it in the Nile.
- His sister watched the basket to see what would happen to the child.
- Pharaoh's daughter was going to bathe when she saw the basket. She felt sorry for the crying child knowing he was one of the Hebrew boys and she decided to keep him.
- The sister who was following her brother in the basket, addressed Pharaoh's daughter and said should I go and call a Hebrew woman to nurse the child. She said yes and the sister went and found their mother (unknowingly to Pharaoh's daughter it was the child's mother).
- The mother of the boy was then paid to nurse her own child
- When he was old enough she brought the child back and he became Pharaoh's daughters' son. He was adopted into the royal family and the daughter named him Moses, because he was drawn out of the water.

In the midst of oppression, God always has a redemptive plan.

In the midst of the tragic situation going on, God ordains a woman to give birth to a child, who (1) brings provision to their home as she gets paid to nurse and raise her own son. (2) Allows a

Hebrew child to be raised up in an Egyptian lifestyle - learning their language, their ways, their customs, etc. for what was to come.

This baby was born for a purpose.

You were born for a purpose. When God created you, He created you with a purpose in mind to advance His kingdom work. When you entered into this world, His plan began to be set in motion.

Like this baby boy, the various circumstances around you were set up to kill you but God had another plan.

The things that we encounter in life may not always be ordained from God but He can use them for our good.

**Main Message:**

Exodus 2:11-15

- Moses is faced with a decision. He is having an identity struggle.
- Moses is in his forties preparing for life in the king's kingdom and he has to decide which direction he will go (Acts 7:23).

**The struggle of identity**

Identity refers to our sense of who we are as individuals and as members of social groups. It also refers to our sense of how others may perceive and label us.

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Hebrews 11:24-28

**24** By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. **25** He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. **26** He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. **27** By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. **28** By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

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**Your internal conflict will call for an external decision.**

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- Moses makes his decision and stands up for his people (v. 11-12).
- Moses kills an Egyptian.

[Matthew Henry commentary states: this act was by special warrant from Heaven (which makes not a precedent in ordinary cases) that Moses slew the Egyptian, and rescued his oppressed brother.]

We know that killing another is not the way of the Lord but God can use our circumstance to unfold His plan for our lives.

### **After the decision, take a moment to sit (v. 15).**

**15** When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.

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- Moses has to live with the consequences of his decision.
- A consequence is a result or effect of an action or condition. Many times we think of negative consequences but any decision has a consequence, negative or positive.
- Many times we make decisions without processing them fully and thinking through what it means for our lives overall.
- Like Moses, we need to find ourselves in Midian at the well.

Midian means judgment, strife, and covering

A well represents more than the idea of water. It is a symbol of community. A well also represents Christ and the Holy Spirit (John 4:14).

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- When Moses fled to Midian, God in the midst of strife provided him a covering of community with a people who knew and served the Lord.
- At the well is also where Moses was met with refreshment.

There are some of us who are in the “sit by the well” moment. Where we have made the choice but now we have to decide are we really going to continue forward. Moses forsook all he knew but in that moment of sitting by the well he realized, he couldn’t go home, he was too far gone. All he could do is move forward.

### **The Power of a Changed Mind**

- The power of a changed mind comes when we not only make the decision but we also move forward in the decision.
- The power of a changed mind removes all excuses and causes us to focus on the forward movement based on the decision we made.

*What has God been calling you to?*

*What has God been calling you away from so He can get to you?*

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### **How do I get to the point of deciding to change my mind?**

1. God will always call. Are you in a listening posture? John 10:27-28
2. Shift your focus towards the call. Proverbs 4:25-27

3. Believe the call is worth more than the comfort. John 16:33
4. Let desperation lead you to the well. Isaiah 44:3

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The power of a changed mind will lead you right to the purpose and call for your life.

### **Closing summarizing Exodus 2:16-25:**

Chapter 2:16-25:

- As Moses is sitting at the well seven women come to draw water.
- They are faced with trouble by shepherds but Moses comes to their rescue.
- The women return home and tell their father what happened and invite Moses to dinner.
- This dinner turns into provision for Moses as he has a place to stay, finds love, etc.
- This also continues Moses in the trajectory of his call.
- After 40 more years God hears the cry of Israel in bondage and we see the results of Moses changing his mind.

Sometimes it may feel like the promises of God are slow and wavering but God is one who holds true to His promises. Though God may feel like He's moving slowly, we can be assured that His promise is sure and true to happen; and when it happens, it is right on time.

- At 80, Moses enters into another phase of God's plan and from here develops into the mighty man of God that we know today.

**Altar call and prayer.**