



[SUMMER 2022] JUNE 2-AUG 4

HoustonFirst.org

FINISHING STRONG



WARRIOR'S HEART
BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM ONE MAN AT A TIME



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Finishing Strong, Chapter 8: Failure That Equips You to Serve

"He who has never failed cannot be great. Failure is the true test of greatness."

– Herman Melville

Moses, An Unqualified Success – 1st 40 Years

- Moses was equipped by Egypt with the equivalent of an MBA & a Ph.D. He was " _____ " by every human standard, but...

23 "When he was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites. 24 When he saw one of them being mistreated, he came to his rescue and avenged the oppressed man by striking down the Egyptian. 25 He assumed his people would understand that God would give them deliverance through him, but they did not understand." – Acts 7:23-25

"Verse 25 makes it very clear that right around the age of 40, Moses knew he had been chosen by God to be the deliverer of Israel. He was dead right about the task, but dead wrong about the timing." – Page 171

Around the age of 40, Moses instituted his own plan to bring about the Exodus. And it didn't work. Why?

- Moses looked to his left and to his right but he never looked _____ ! ^^
 - There is a type of self-confidence and self-esteem that is healthy and good. However, an excessive self-confidence is very _____ to one's spiritual health.
 - A wrong self-confidence is usually characterized by _____. It's not that we're going against God, it's just that we don't have a sense that we really need to depend on Him.

⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. – John 15:5

The person with excessive self-confidence really doesn't believe the last phrase of that verse. He may believe it intellectually but doesn't believe it _____.

- Moses was top of his game but about to be at his lowest point!

Moses, An Undisputed Failure – 2nd 40 Years

- Within 24 hours Moses had a _____ of address, vocation, and status.

Remember...

*"The God who oversees and controls the events of human history is overseeing you! And He knows exactly what He is doing. You may have lost control of your circumstances, but He has not. Trust me, my friend. He has enrolled you in a course you didn't sign up for. And if you remain **teachable**, He'll make sure you finish strong!"* – Page 177

Finishing Strong, Chapter 8: Failure That Equips You to Serve

- God was far from finished with Moses. Although Moses felt God had removed His hand from him, nothing was further from the truth.
- God's hand was as _____ on Moses in the desert as it had been when he was a babe in the bulrushes.
- God enrolled Moses into '*The School of Disappointment's MCA Program*', for a *Masters of Character Acquisition*, which included the following courses:

Course # 1 - Unemployment 101

- This course attacks a man's _____ - _____.
- This challenging course will cause the enrollee to suffer, but it's the suffering that _____ the enrollee for ministry!

Course # 2 - Advanced Obscurity

- True and tested remedy for _____ - _____.
- Obscurity is tough, especially if you're in a hurry to climb the corporate ladder, but...
- God wants us to climb the _____ ladder.

Course # 3 - Remedial Waiting

- Moses was in a hurry. God is _____ in a hurry.
- Character development comes _____ ministry.
- This course is absolutely _____ for the character remodeling that God is undertaking in our lives.

Course # 4 - Intermediate Loneliness

- Moses wasn't in the desert to lead, he was in the desert to be _____. That's why he had to be isolated.
- God would not use Moses until Moses had learned to _____ to God and God's timetable. So Moses was alone.

The key to getting through God's *MCA program* is to be _____!

Moses, Finally Fit For the Master's Use – Last 40 Years

- There is only one way to earn a Masters of Character Acquisition, and that is through _____.
- When you are in the midst of a desert (or MCA program) the fastest way out is to ask God to let you _____ that He has for you in that experience.
- Without the _____ program, there would have been no _____!

Discussion Questions

- What keeps you from being 'still' before the Lord and why? What could you do today to remedy this?
- How is your prayer life? Do you have someone you can pray with on a regular basis? Right now, take a minute to pray for whatever is on your heart. Seriously, pray right now.
- What is a "desert" you are going through or have been through? What has God shown you since you've been in it or what did you learn when you went through it?
- Why do you believe God puts us through hardship?
- What was the one takeaway from this morning's lesson and why? How will you apply it to your life? Write out your answer _____.

Survey is Open!



BAND OF
BROTHERS



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Moses was equipped by Egypt
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Moses looked to his left
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There is a type of self-confidence and self-esteem that is healthy and good. However, an excessive self-confidence is very harmful to one's spiritual health.

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A wrong self-confidence is usually characterized by prayerlessness. It's not that we're going against God, it's just that we don't have a sense that we really need to depend on Him.

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God's hand was as firmly on Moses in the desert as it had been when he was a babe in the bulrushes.

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This course attacks a man's self-worth.

This challenging course will cause the enrollee to suffer, but it's the suffering that qualifies the enrollee for ministry!

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True and tested remedy for
over-confidence.

God wants us to climb the
character ladder.

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Moses was in a hurry. God is not in a hurry.
Character development comes before
ministry.

This course is absolutely necessary for the
character remodeling that God is
undertaking in our lives.

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Moses wasn't in the desert to lead, he was in the desert to be led. That's why he had to be isolated.

God would not use Moses until Moses had learned to submit to God and God's timetable. So Moses was alone.

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The key to getting through
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There is only one way to earn a Masters of Character Acquisition, and that is through hardship.

When you are in the midst of a desert (or MCA program) the fastest way out is to ask God to let you learn everything that He has for you in that experience.

Without the MCA program, there would have been no EXODUS.

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