

Moses

Part 2

Exodus 2

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.

- Last week we covered the birth of Moses and how Pharaoh had made a decree for all the Hebrew boys to be killed. When Moses was born his mother protected for as long as she could. She eventually couldn't hid him any longer and placed him in a basket and put him in the river believing he would be killed. Thankfully Moses was discovered by Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son.
- Now Moses is grown and has only known life from the perspective of being Pharaoh's grandson.

Acts 7:22-23 says "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds. When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites."

- Up until then, he was trained and groomed to become the next Pharaoh of Egypt (**according to Josephus**)

11b

he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor.

NKJV: *Looked at their burdens.*

"The phrase means more than 'to see'. It means, 'to see with emotion', or, with distress. Moses is one who shares God's heart." **(Cole)**

- Hebrews 11 tells us more about what happens with Moses at this age.

Hebrews 11

23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

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.

- Something is growing inside of Moses and he is drawn towards his own people, the people of God over the things of this world.
- The desire inside of Moses for the Sacred over the Secular is an indicator of God's hand on Moses.
- This growing empathy in the heart of Moses for his people is also an early indicator of the calling God is bringing his way. True Ministry happens when God shows a person the need He sees, and that person sets out to meet that need.

Exodus 3:7 "And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt".

- Often times opportunity is not enough, but when opportunity meets a heart of compassion then action becomes second nature.

Vs. 12-14

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.”

- Even though Moses is regarded as the most humble man on the face of the earth (Numbers 12:3). We also see that this humble man has a little bit of an anger problem. We will see in the life of Moses that this is a down fall of Moses that hinders his ministry.

Story: Professor Bob Phillips

- The fact that Moses “looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian” tells us Moses knew what he was about to do was wrong and looked before he acted.
- Moses was Empathetic towards his people
- Moses was Hot Tempered in defending them
- Moses was a man of Conscience

Vs. 14

14 The man said, “Who made you ruler (*prince*) 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.”

- Before Moses leaves for Midian the last memory he has, is this Hebrew saying “Who made you ruler and judge over us?”
- The funny thing is; that is exactly what God has in mind for Moses and he will be their leader and judge. Satan will use this to replay against Moses causing him to question himself with God’s calling.
- Moses is in the natural a prince over Egypt and will also sit as Judge over the Israelites. In the same way Christ was rejected by the world and will sit as King and Judge over the World.

Both Moses and Jesus

- Favored by God from birth.
- Miraculously preserved in childhood.
- Mighty in words and deed.
- Offered deliverance to Israel.
- Rejected by Israel.

“Just like Jesus after him, Moses could not deliver when he lived in the palaces of glory. He had to come down off the throne, away from the palace and into a humble place before he could deliver his people.”

(Guzik)

Vs. 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.

- Moses world changed quick; He went from a Palace to a Well in the desert...
- At this point Moses probably felt completely defeated. His attempt to help ended in failure. Now he has lost his own people, home and livelihood.
- Moses is now in a Humble place, but a humble place is a good place to learn and grow.
- As difficult as it must have felt for Moses to encounter failure, It was needed, failure is a great teacher. At first Moses went about God's work in his own strength. Now he is humbled and will learn to rely on God. Without God's leading, Moses like the rest of us falls short.

Story: God spoke to me and said “if your going to work for me you have to learn wait on me and hear my voice.”

Vs. 16-17

16 Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock. **17** Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.

- The Moses we see later as timid doesn't seem so timid here. At first Moses engages in the conflict between the Egyptian and Hebrew man. Now he engages in defending these seven daughters. Thankfully no one dies and Moses's courageous act is well received. His courage this time affords him favor and opportunity.

Note: When God hits the reset button in our lives. It can be difficult but it's through brokenness and humility that we learn. It's in brokenness and humility we grow.

When God first called me to follow him the biggest problem I faced was me. I had to learn; **I can't do God's will my way... It has to be done God's way...** I had to let God take me to a place of total surrender before things went from a nose dive to a divine upward climb.

- The First time the Israelites saw Moses; it was Moses operating in his own strength and wisdom...
- The Second time the Israelites see Moses; it will be Moses operating in the strength and wisdom of God...

Vs. 18-22

18 When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, "Why have you returned so early today?"

19 They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock."

20 “And where is he?” Reuel asked his daughters. “Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat.”

21 Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. **22** Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, saying, “I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.”

Note: Reuel the Priest of Midian is the same person we know later in Exodus as Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses.

- It was a common cultural practice in the Ancient near East to have Multiple names, titles, or clan names.
- Most agree that **Reuel** (meaning "Friend of God") served as his personal given name, while **Jethro** (meaning "Excellency" or "Abundance") functioned as an honorable title or rank.

Vs. 19

They answered, “An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock.”

- When in Egypt Moses was a part of the royal family and was waited on hand and foot. Now in the distant desert of Midian, Moses has the opportunity to be a servant and served by fetching water for Reuel’s flock.
- I believe a prerequisite for ministry is to serve with a servant heart. Here Moses is not above the task of being a servant. There is a difference between serving and having a servant heart. Anyone can serve with a motive to get something in return. But a Servant serves with no strings attached.

Vs. 21,22 Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. **22** Zipporah gave birth to a son, and

Moses named him Gershom, saying, “I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.”

- Little did Moses know that in his willingness to serve, he ultimately served his own destiny. The simple act of defending and serving provides Moses with a home and a family.

Note: This is now the home and people Moses will serve for 40 years. I can only image that Moses was content to remain in Midian and never imagined that would change. But God allowing Moses to grow. His journey is long from over...

Vs. 23-25

23 During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. **24** God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. **25** So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

- When Vs. 24 says God remembered his covenant with Abraham. That doesn't mean that God forgot. It simply means God began to reflect back over his promise.
- Even if Moses forgot about Israel, God did not.
- Under the weight of slavery, Israel cried out to God for help and God heard their groaning and remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- Vs. 25 “So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.”
- If the story of the Exodus tells a powerful story, it's this; when God decides to move, No one can stop Him.

- Oh that American would learn from the Exodus to cry out to God. Maybe He would hear us from heaven and a spiritual awakening would happen like the 1st Great Awakening with George Whitefield and Johnathan Edwards.
- Exodus 2:24 is proof that God hears the groans of his people and he is moved with compassion for them...

Isaiah 64 NKJV

Oh, that You would rend the heavens!

That You would come down!

That the mountains might shake at Your presence—

2

As fire burns brushwood,

As fire causes water to boil—

To make Your name known to Your adversaries,

That the nations may tremble at Your presence!