



SELFIES IN THE DESERT, PART 2: PUFFED UP SOMEBODIES

Have you ever felt like you needed to make things happen—because if you didn’t, nothing would? Sometimes when we see an opportunity or feel a calling, we push forward in our own strength, on our own timeline, and by our own methods. That’s exactly what Moses did in the first half of his life. He was highly educated, powerful, and destined for leadership—yet when he rushed God’s plan, he ended up running for his life and hiding in the desert.

We all have that temptation to take a “God idea” and carry it out with “me-driven” timing. But when we do, we often leave behind wreckage, regrets, and covered-up consequences. So, how do we avoid getting ahead of God? And what can we learn from Moses’ failure and God’s grace?

BIG IDEA: When you’re full of self, there’s no room for God to move.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever tried to force something to happen because you thought it was the “right time,” but it completely backfired? What did that experience teach you?
2. With your Bible or Bible App, [read Acts 7:20-29](#) and [Exodus 2:11-15](#).

²⁰ “At that time Moses was born—a beautiful child in God’s eyes. His parents cared for him at home for three months. ²¹ When they had to abandon him, Pharaoh’s daughter adopted him and raised him as her own son. ²² Moses was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in both speech and action. ²³ One day when Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his relatives, the people of Israel. ²⁴ He saw an Egyptian mistreating an Israelite. So Moses came to the man’s defense and avenged him, killing the Egyptian. ²⁵ Moses assumed his fellow Israelites would realize that God had sent him to rescue them, but they didn’t. ²⁶ “The next day he visited them again and saw two men of Israel fighting. He tried to be a peacemaker. ‘Men,’ he said, ‘you are brothers. Why are you fighting each other?’ ²⁷ “But the man in the wrong pushed Moses aside. ‘Who made you a ruler and judge over us?’ he asked. ²⁸ ‘Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?’ ²⁹ When Moses heard that, he fled the country and lived as a foreigner in the land of Midian. [Acts 7:20-29 \(NLT\)](#)

¹¹ Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people, the Hebrews, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews. ¹² After looking in all directions to make sure no one was watching, Moses killed the Egyptian and hid the body 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. [Exodus 2:11-15 \(NLT\)](#)

3. What does Acts 7:23 tell us about Moses’ status and capabilities? Why do you think confidence in our own skills and education can sometimes blind us to God’s process?
4. Why do you think Moses acted in his own strength rather than waiting on God? What risks do we face when we act on a God-given vision without waiting on God’s timing?
5. Chris said that Moses “looked this way and that way but never looked up.” What are some ways we tend to “look around” for solutions instead of “looking up” to God?

6. [Proverbs 3:5-6](#) tells us that we should, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”* How can this passage guide you the next time you’re tempted to push your way forward?
7. Moses tried burying the Egyptian that he killed. Why do we often try to cover up the consequences of acting in our own strength? What’s one example of a “corpse in the sand” from your own efforts to control a situation?
8. Moses fled to the desert of Midian for 40 years. Have you ever had a “desert season” after a failure or misstep? What did God teach you in that wilderness time?

MOVING FORWARD

When we’re full of ourselves, there’s no space for God to move. But when we empty ourselves—of pride, impatience, and control—God has room to work in His perfect timing. Don’t rush God’s plans for your life. Trust His timing and let Him lead you step by step. When God’s in it—it flows. When you’re in it—it’s forced.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Moses was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in both speech and action.

Acts 7:20-22 (NLT)