

Shaping God's Servant - Managing My Way! (08/20/25 FBC) rchildress)

Acts 7:22–29; Exodus 2:11–15

Introduction: What's in a Name?

- Moses is repeatedly called “the servant of God”—a powerful legacy.
- God desires every believer to be known as His servant.
- Key questions:
- How do you become a servant of God?
- How does God shape His servants?

I. God at Work Before We Arrive

- Moses' life shows: God is at work before we even show up.
- Born into oppression, racism, and genocide—yet not forgotten.
- Pharaoh's edict: all Hebrew boys to be drowned.
- Moses' parents defied Pharaoh, trusting God's plan.
- Strategic rescue: baby Moses floated to Pharaoh's daughter.
- Miriam's boldness leads to Moses' own mother raising him—federally funded!
- Lesson: Your history does not have to be your destiny.

II. Identity in the Midst of Privilege

- Raised in Pharaoh's palace, but deeply rooted in Hebrew identity.
- Parents instilled:
- God's promises to Abraham.
- Hope for a Holy Land, a great people, a coming Messiah.
- At age 40, Moses feels urgency—God has a plan, and he wants to act.

III. Compassion Without Calling

- Moses sees injustice: an Egyptian beating a Hebrew.
- He acts out of compassion—but without divine direction.
- Exodus 2:12: “He looked this way and that...” but forgot to look up.

- Lesson: Right motives, wrong method.
- Doing the right thing the wrong way leads to chaos.

IV. The Subtle Temptation: Doing Right the Wrong Way

- The enemy doesn't just tempt us to do wrong—he tempts us to do right in the wrong way.
- Examples:
- Confronting family with arrogance.
- Correcting coworkers with self-righteousness.
- Helping others without invitation or humility.
- After the act, the enemy whispers: "Hide it. Bury it. Don't confess."
- Moses buries the Egyptian—then faces rejection from his own people.

V. When Good Intentions Go Sideways

- Acts 7:25: Moses thought his people would recognize his calling.
- Instead, they ask: "Who made you ruler and judge?"
- Lesson: Action before calling brings confusion.
- When we try to manage God's plan our way, we derail it.

Closing Reflection

- Moses' story is our story:
- Shaped by God.
- Tempted to act prematurely.
- Called to trust, not control.
- Ask yourself:
- Am I trying to help God out—or am I listening for His voice?
- Where have I acted with good intentions but missed God's timing?