



Session 1 - Faith

1 Corinthians 10:1-6,11-12 (NASB) 1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 and all ate the same spiritual food; 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. 6 Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved... 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

Exodus 4:10-14 (NASB) 10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." 11 The LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? 12 "Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say." 13 But he said, "Please, Lord, now send the message by whomever You will." 14 Then the anger of the LORD burned against Moses, and He said, "Is there not your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he speaks fluently. And moreover, behold, he is coming out to meet you; when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart."

We come upon a well known story here. It's the story of God calling Moses to return to Egypt and set God's people free. As we well know Moses hesitates quite a bit before God convinces Him to go. To this point in our story in Exodus 4 God has done the following to convince Moses:

- Appeared to him as a burning bush, a bush that would burn continuously but not burn up.
- Spoken to Him through the burning bush.
- He has had his staff turn into a serpent and back to a staff when Moses grab's it's tail.
- He had his hand turn leprous and then back to normal.

Moses' response to these things is:

10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

Neither recently nor in time past - Was Moses always an ineloquent speaker?

Exodus 2:5-6,9-10 (NASB) 5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her maidens walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid, and she brought it to her. 6 When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children...9 Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. 10 The child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. And she named him Moses, and said, "Because I drew him out of the water."

Notice what is said in Acts about Moses' ability to speak:

Acts 7:20,22 (NASB) 20 "It was at this time that Moses was born; and he was lovely in the sight of God, and he was nurtured three months in his father's home...22 "Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, and he was a man of power in words and deeds."

- Isn't it interesting how we try to argue with God?
- Moses has been in the Wilderness for 40 years to this point.
- Moses is so far removed from these previous days that he can't believe there is any way he could ever arrive at them again.
- Even when God suggests it, Moses is ready to tell Him there's no way.

Slow – heavy Many have concluded that Moses had some sort of speech impediment. I'm not sure that there is enough evidence in scripture to support that.

What we see though is someone who has no confidence in his ability to be able to deliver a message on the scale that God is going to want it to be delivered.

SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE:

Egypt represents the world. Moses was trained by the world on how to speak and lead. What we can take from this is the spiritual reality that the world can't properly teach us a skill. The world can teach us a lot of different things but it will never teach it in the way that God wants us to learn it.

IT IS ALL ABOUT THE SOURCE

When the world teaches the world teaches that YOU are the source of your learning and that YOU must lean on ourselves to learn anything. When God teaches His most fundamental principle is that HE is the source of our learning and that we must lean on HIM if we want to learn what He has for us in the proper way.

John 6:63 (ESV) It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

This is exactly where God was trying to bring Moses over these last 40 years in the wilderness. He was stripping away from Moses what Moses had learned from the world.

He was bringing some incredibly difficult times on Moses to bring Moses to a place where he would **stop leaning on himself**.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GOD'S FINAL MIRACLE WITH MOSES

Now I want us to stop and be reminded of the very last thing that God did. God had just healed Moses bodily of something. Up to the last miracle that He did God's miracles to Moses had been apart from Moses' body. The very last thing He did was heal Moses of a terrible disease. He gave him and He took away leprosy.

1st point is this: To have God heal him of this, probably more than any other sign would have spoken to the individual of Moses, it was part of his body. I can see God doing amazing things externally with other people but when it comes down to doing something for me as miraculous as healing *my* body that's a big deal...in other words that is a miracle on another level for me.

Mark 5:25-29,34 (NASB) 25 A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years, 26 and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse--27 after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His cloak. 28 For she thought, "If I just touch His garments, I will get well." 29 Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction...34 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction."

Just like this woman being healed here...just like all the healing that God did either in the OT or as the man Jesus Christ there was always a purpose. To get people to believe / trust.

Just like the woman with the hemorrhage, who was struggling and at the end of her rope, God wanted Moses to understand something.

What was God's purpose in healing Moses? To help Moses understand the following:

Jeremiah 32:27 (NASB) 27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?"

What did God want Moses to understand? He wanted Moses to trust Him.

11 The LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? 12 "Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say."

2nd point is this: God is reminding Moses that He made man, He has made man's mouth and everything that is required for that man to be able to speak.

Psalms 139:1-2,4,13-14 (NASB) 1 For the choir director. A Psalm of David. O LORD, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar...4 Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all...13 For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. 14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well.

When God brings us to a place where what He wants to accomplish through us can ONLY be accomplished by His hand...we know our faith is inadequate to accomplish it.

Jesus showed us the perspective He wants us to have.

John 9:1-3 (NASB) 1 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

God has known Moses from long before Moses was formed in his mother's womb. He has known that Moses is who He has planned on using for this task from eternity past. He has also known precisely about Moses ailments and how they would be handled.

12 "Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say."

Not only is God going to be with Moses and give him words, He is going to *teach* what he is to say.

Big statement. In other words God is telling Moses I am going to leave you better than I found you. There are some teachers and parents who want to do the work for their kids. God wants for those He is working through to learn.

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

This is such a great picture of a character trait of God. While God tells us that He is going to give us the strength to get through whatever it is that He has for us to get through, He is also going to teach us and grow us along the way. He isn't the type of parent that enables us He is the type of parent that comes along side and teaches us at the same time. Wonderful picture of that here.

Job 36:22 (NASB) 22 "Behold, God is exalted in His power; Who is a teacher like Him?"

Psalms 25:4-5 (NASB) 4 Make me know Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. 5 Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day.

Isaiah 50:4 (NIV) The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

God is a teacher and His plan was to teach Moses while He was working through Him.

What is God trying to teach Moses?

That He is someone worthy of Moses' trust.

By showing Moses all these things God is showing Moses that there's nothing He can't do to accomplish this through Moses....even all the way to healing his body, God would take care of Moses.

13 But he said, "Please, Lord, now send the message by whomever You will."

After all of these things Moses there's still something that Moses can't do. What is that one thing? He still can't trust God to do this.

It's somewhat interesting too.

Moses trusted Him enough to pick up a serpent by its tail and have it turn back into a staff.

Even the leprosy, Moses trusted enough to put his hand back and have it healed.

But this, this was just too much for Moses.

For Moses the idea of God using him to lead these people out of Egypt. To go be God's mouthpiece against the powerful Pharaoh it was something that he just couldn't see God accomplishing in him.

For Moses, in this area, God wasn't ***big enough*** to handle this. He could do an awful lot but this, this wasn't something Moses could see Him doing.

In other words Moses just **didn't trust God** enough in this area.

God's response to Moses constant push back in this area -

14 Then the anger of the LORD burned against Moses, and He said, "Is there not your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he speaks fluently. And moreover, behold, he is coming out to meet you; when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart."

14 Then the anger of the LORD burned against Moses - Why was God so angry at Moses?

