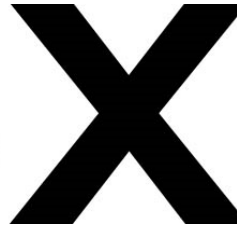


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Day 1

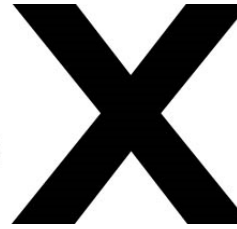
Sermon Sentence: Our lives do not have to be defined by our mistakes when Jesus gets involved.

Exodus 2:1-8

As with all stories that God is involved with, Exodus is seemingly simple and amazingly complex at the same time. God confounds the will of man over and over again, showing that His will is sovereign and His plans will come to fruition. Each step we see the Pharaoh make against God's people, God counters and makes a success out of what would be tragedy. Exodus two opens with the birth of Moses and once again we see God's will at play in Moses' life from the very beginning.

- Moses' mother placed him in a basket and set him adrift on the Nile river. The Bible does not indicate that she had any instruction from God to do this. Placing yourself in this position of desperation, what do you think she was hoping for by doing this? Under normal circumstances what would have happened to Moses, especially in a river like the Nile?
- We see an incredible sequence of events play out that would never happen without the hand of God. What are some of the things that God makes happen concerning Moses as an infant on the river?
- What is so ironic about Moses being delivered out of the Nile river in relation to the instructions of the Pharaoh concerning the Israelite male children?
- In our life we often play the role of Pharaoh in regards to the decisions and mistakes we make, do you see God's will prevailing anyway? How?
- How do we relate to this tug of war of God's will vs. our own? What should our goal be?

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Day 2

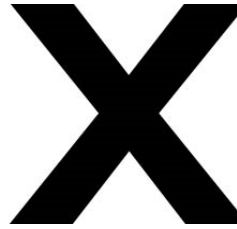
Sermon Sentence: Our lives do not have to be defined by our mistakes when Jesus gets involved.

Exodus 2:9-10

So God not only took a plan of complete desperation by Moses' mother that had literally no chance for a happy ending on its own and turned it into a victory for Moses but He also rewarded the mother as well! Pay attention to the actions of Moses' sister and how God used her to make sure that Moses was taken care of by his own mother in spite of the instructions of the king and by the king's own household!

- What is so surprising about the reaction of the princess to an Israelite baby, considering her national allegiance and the fact that she was royalty?
- What is the significance of Moses' sister being present when Moses is pulled from the Nile? What connection is she able to establish for Moses?
- So God not only restores Moses to his mother for nursing but what else does the princess do for the mother that makes this even more incredible and a testament to God's plan?
- God has a way with taking the least anticipated approach to a problem. Why? Relate to things in your life and the way that God moved in the least expected way. Why does He do this, what is He trying to show us?
- When we see events unfold in our lives that defy logic and normal expectations, do we often give God the credit or give it to some cosmic definition of luck or circumstance? Why or why not?

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Day 3

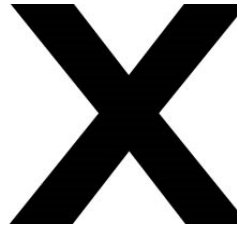
Sermon Sentence: Our lives do not have to be defined by our mistakes when Jesus gets involved.

Exodus 2:11-12

Moses killed an Egyptian because he was beating an Israelite. Understanding the context more deeply we have to consider that Moses was considered Egyptian royalty and the Israelites were considered to be slave labor. The slave master, although he was beating a Israelite, probably wasn't doing anything different than others in the same job as the Bible describes their treatment as being cruel. Moses hid the body signifying that he was not just in this action and that he himself would be punished for this crime.

- The Egyptian would not have expected Moses to approach and kill him, why?
- Why do you think Moses continued to relate himself to the Hebrews even though he was raised as Egyptian royalty?
- Why do you think Moses decided to act against the Egyptian and kill him? What was he hoping to accomplish for the Israelite? Was this realistic?
- Moses felt separated from his own people by circumstances. Do you think he truly felt like an Egyptian? How about an Israelite? Explain.
- Do you see this play out in your Christian walk? In the world but not really a part of it or do you often feel separated from God and fellow Christians by choices?

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Day 4

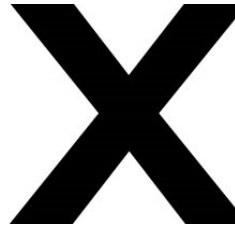
Sermon Sentence: Our lives do not have to be defined by our mistakes when Jesus gets involved.

Exodus 2:13-14

Moses probably went away after killing the Egyptian thinking that he did a good thing for the Israelite and that they would now know that he was an Israelite at heart. However, we see the next day that this is not the case. His kindness was not received with trust and the Israelites were suspicious of his motives. Although the Bible does not specifically say, we can make an assumption that only Israelites witnessed the murder and from that assumption that it was an Israelite that alerted the Egyptians to the killing.

- How do you think Moses felt after this encounter with the Israelites fighting?
- Do you think he was shattered by the realization that he was not accepted as one of them?
- Why do you think the Israelite responded to Moses' question the way he did? Why was he fearful of being judged and how does his response fit familiar patterns that we experience in interactions with others when they feel judged?
- We make a lot of mistakes in our lives, what should be the proper way we respond to the concern and correction of fellow believers?
- What does Jesus give us concerning our mistakes and our ability to move forward?

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got me here**



Day 5

Sermon Sentence: Our lives do not have to be defined by our mistakes when Jesus gets involved.

Exodus 2:15-16

Moses becomes fearful that his deed has become known and the Pharaoh does try to have him killed after it is discovered. Moses flees Egypt to a country known as Midian. It is interesting that Midian was settled by Midian one of the sons of Abraham through another wife. Moses has fled a land where he was a foreigner to a land where he is a foreigner.

- Considering Moses does not know of any plans of God at this point, what do you think is going through his head?
- As with so many of our lives when we are unaware of God's plan, what does it seem like Moses is doing?
- Do you think that Moses still considers himself an Israelite at this point? Why or why not?
- Can you relate to times in your life where it felt like you didn't belong anywhere and that you were just wandering? How did you cope?
- It could be said that a series of decisions that Moses made took him from royalty to a foreigner in a foreign land. We see this pattern play out in many stories in the Bible. Do you think that all that Moses was experiencing was part of God's plan? How does God often use trial and refinement just before using someone in His plan? Think about other characters and their stories from the Bible, can you relate to this pattern in your own life?