

## A Family In God's Will



### Day 1

**Sermon Sentence:** Following God is more than just an emotion, it is a change that affects all areas of our life

#### Exodus 4:18-20

The excuses have all been laid out and rejected by God, Moses is His chosen one and there is no getting out of it. So Moses returns from the wilderness and bids his father-in-law farewell. He loads up the family on donkeys and off they go with the staff of God in his hand. Remember this is not a short trip back to Egypt, it was almost 400 miles!

- Just as quickly as Moses went from riches to rags he has now gone from a normal life to a life of the unknown as a person in God's plan. What do you think Moses' state of mind would be at this point?
- Compare to your own life, how would you react if you were taken from your daily routine and comfort of your life and told to go 400 miles to a foreign land all on faith? Would you? Explain.
- The Bible does not say much about Moses' family up to this point, but he is bringing them with him. What does that say about the nature of this trip?
- Do you think that Moses shared the encounter with God with his family?
- What would you say to your family after such an encounter to get them to accept a change this big?

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### Day 2

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#### Exodus 4:21-23

The idea of firstborn holds great significance in the Bible. Firstborns have special rights mentioned in the Bible such as receiving a double portion of the inheritance of the father and also the one to naturally take the leadership mantle from the father especially in lines of royalty. The nation of Israel is described by God as His firstborn son (metaphorically referring to them as a nation first chosen unto salvation). Here we see God specifically referring to the final plague in which He will kill all of Egypt's firstborns including the Pharaoh's son.

- What is so significant about the plague of the firstborns?
- What is the significance of God referring to Israel as the firstborn? (Romans 11)
- Who is the second chosen to salvation and why? (again Romans 11)
- Exodus is full of shadow references pointing to Christ. Christ is said to be the firstborn of many things. Can you name some of the things that Christ is the firstborn of and why that shows the importance of understanding the idea of "firstborn"?
- Why do you think the final plague would have been the most devastating to Egypt?

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### Day 3

**Sermon Sentence:** Following God is more than just an emotion, it is a change that affects all areas of our life

#### Exodus 4:24-26

Wait...what!?? This is one of those areas of scriptures that you read and re-read to make sure that you got it right. Yes, God says He is about to kill Moses! Moses is guilty of a crime against God worthy of death. The Bible says that at the last minute Zipporah cut the child's foreskin off and threw it at Moses. Clearly she was not too happy about doing this but it saves Moses from death because God decides not to kill him! Strange? You bet at first glance but not when you dig deeper.

- What was Moses guilty of not doing that would make God so angry? (Genesis 17: 9-14)
- It is clearly Zipporah influencing Moses decision concerning this child, why do you think that she was against this act? (Remember her heritage.)
- What is the proper role of spouse in relation to the requirements placed upon us by God? How is this role complicated by an unbeliever?
- Why do you think Moses was ignoring this or was it an oversight?
- Why couldn't Moses continue in the plans of God if he refused this? (Genesis 17:14)

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### Day 4

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#### Exodus 4:27-31

Moses must have been thinking “well that went better than I thought”! After he got past the whole arguing with God and almost getting killed thing now Moses meets his brother (arranged by God), tells him all about God’s plan and then they meet with the elders of Israel and the elders believe them! This is going to be smooth sailing after all, right?

- This all must have been a big surprise to Aaron, we can assume he has not seen Moses in many years. What do you think your reaction would be? Would you have the faith to accept the story that Moses told Aaron?
- What do you think about the faith it has taken to come this far? The faith of Moses to believe in the first place, the faith of his family to follow and the faith of his brother to join him?
- Finally what about the faith of the nation of Israel? They have been in Egypt for 400 years! God and His promises must have seemed like a fairytale told long ago.
- What about relating that to the faith of people today? Do people still believe as easily as in the past? Why or why not? Does the factor of time play an increasing role in faith? What does the scripture say about this? (2 Peter 3:3)

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### Day 5

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#### Isaiah 32:17

Was there any peace for Moses until he submitted to what God was telling him? Moses continues to struggle against the will of God all the way up to the point God is going to kill him for breaking His covenant. It is only in submission to God's will we see the story start to go as God has said it would all along. It is only when Moses begins to realize that it is God who is in control and he is only righteous when he is believing what God is telling him that he starts to find peace in the plan that God has for his life. We can all learn a thing or two from Moses and his willful struggle with God.

#### Application:

**How to remain in God's Will and not lose your family**

**Following God means we are willing to give up what we have accepted as normal.**

**Following God means we see the importance of living our life change out in front of our family.**

**Following God means it is more than just an emotional experience it is a life commitment.**

- What things have you realized need to change in your life as a result of following God? Do you feel that this is a continuous process or does all the change happen at once.
- When you display your faith to family, how is it received? Do you hide your faith or show it? How does the reaction of your family affect your display of faith?
- Do you feel that you have made a commitment to following God by allowing your faith to show in all areas of your life? If not, why? What is holding you back?