

“The First 40 Years of Moses’ Life”

Part 5

Exodus 2

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of the life of Moses we are going to look closely at the events of Exodus 2:11-22. We have already looked at the how God was working in the heart of Moses. He had placed within him a burden for his people and he placed within him a desire to be used as a means to the solution. Moses willingly rejected the palace of Egypt and all that was attached to that life style. Tonight, in our study we are going to look at how he ended up in Midian where he would spend the next 40 years.

I. The Desire of Moses

Notice Exodus 2:11

When Moses was 40 years old God had placed the desire within his heart to stand up for the people of Israel and as he stepped away from the palace this certain day, we are told that he “looked on their burdens”. This means that he looked with compassion. Possibly up until this time he had never actually witnessed what they were being forced to endure. But on this day, he stood, and he watched how they were being afflicted and his heart was moved with compassion. At this time Moses is very passionate able doing all he can to help his people. This gives to us some great insight into the heart of the man. Many who are raised by a “silver spoon” are often out of touch with those who are considered common people. They often seem desensitized to the real world. But Moses was different. He had within him a different heart.

Notice Exodus 2:12

His passion for his people was so great that when he knew no one was looking he killed the Egyptian who was mistreating his fellow Israelite. There are two points we need to consider here:

1. The passion of Moses.

Now what Moses did was certainly wrong when he killed the Egyptian and we shall get to that in a moment. But there is something here that is commendable concerning this scene. That compassion which Moses had for his brethren and the passion he had to do something.

Application:

If the church had this compassion today, I am convinced that our world would be a different place. We have become desensitized by our society today and when we see

someone suffering for whatever reason or we see someone who is lost in their sin we are able to look the other way and get back to what we were doing for ourselves. Sometimes the church lives like hell is not real. Let me show you an actual letter written by an atheist to believers.

“You are really convinced that you’ve got all the answers. You’ve really got yourself tricked into believing that you are 100 percent right. Well, let me tell you just one thing. Do you consider yourself to be compassionate (toward) other humans? If you’re right about God, as you say you are, and you believe that, then how can you sleep at night?”

When you speak with me, you are speaking with someone who you believe is walking directly into eternal damnation, into an endless onslaught of horrendous pain which your loving God created, yet you stand by and do nothing.

If you believed one bit that thousands every day were falling into an eternal and unchangeable fate, you should be running the streets mad with rage at their blindness. That’s equivalent to standing on a street corner and watching every person that passes you walk blindly directly into the path of a bus and die, yet you stand idly by and do nothing. You’re just twiddling your thumbs, happy in the knowledge that one day that Walk signal will shine your way across the road.

Think about it. I imagine the horrors hell must have in store if the Bible is true. You’re just going to allow that to happen and not care about saving anyone but yourself? If you’re right, then you’re an uncaring, unemotional, and purely selfish person that has no right to talk about subjects such as love and caring.”

That letter is rather sharp and pointed but it truly captures the lack of passion within many believers today. Let me show you what Matthew recorded concerning the compassion of Jesus.

Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵ And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

³⁶ But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

³⁷ Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

³⁸ Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

We need to [pray that God would make our hearts tender and fill them with compassion. Remember how tender Nehemiah's heart was?

Nehemiah 1:1-4

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,

² That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

³ And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.

⁴ And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

2. The sin of Moses.

Notice Exodus 2:11-12 again:

Moses had great passion but needed to learn how to channel his passion. Moses knew what he did was wrong for he looked all around before he killed the Egyptian and then he hid him in the sand. Moses may have been convinced in his mind that he was justified to kill the Egyptian for he was looking to the end result of delivering the Israelites.

Application:

Let us all be reminded that as we serve God, we must be sure we follow the plan which God has given. We must keep in mind that the end never justifies the means. David also had to learn this when he chose to move the ark to Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 6:1-7

Again, David gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.

² And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.

³And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.

⁴And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

⁵And David and all the house of I srael played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

⁶And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it.

⁷And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.

David's heart was right but the means of moving the ark was completely wrong. It was to be carried not placed on a cart.

The lesson for our lives is that we must follow the Word of God as we serve Him if we desire His blessing upon what we do.

Notice Exodus 2:13-14

It was the very next day that Moses discovered that what he had done was now known. He thought he had covered his sin, but word was spreading that he had killed the Egyptian. The lesson for us here is seen in one verse:

Numbers 32:23

²³But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.

Two other examples of this are seen in the life of Achan and Jonah.

There is also something else here that we need to see. Moses' heart was full of desire to help his people and he willingly forsook all that Egypt had to offer but he was ahead of God. The time was not right. God would turn up the heat of the iron furnace for 40 more years before I srael would be ready to leave. God needed to work in the hearts of the people before they would be ready.

Application:

When I read this, and I consider what is taking place here I am reminded of the need to be sure the Holy Spirit is working in the life of those whom I witness to. There have been many so called “conversions” which God has not been a part of.

I remember what I experienced as a young child at a VBS class. The teacher asks for a raise of hands for those who wanted to be saved and I raised my hand thinking it was the right thing to do. She led me in a prayer asking Jesus to come into my heart and then assured me I was saved. I had no idea what had happened, and I can assure you there was no conversion. I was not saved until many years later when I understood sin and the cross. But the frightening thing was that I lived a reckless immoral life years later thinking that because I prayed that prayer I would go to heaven if I died. This happens all the time and there are many people today who live with a false assurance that they are saved. Notice what Jesus said.

John 6:44a

44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:

The Spirit must be at work in the person's life and they must be convicted of their sin. Let me show you an example of the need for conviction.

Luke 18:18-22

18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.

20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

This man could not see his sin. Jesus used the Law as a mirror, but he still refused to see his sinfulness. Therefore, he walked away from Jesus unsaved. If this would have been in a church of today this man would have been led in a prayer and told he was saved.

Moses was acting in the flesh and God was not in what he was doing. Let us be sure that when we speak with people about their salvation that we learn to wait upon the Lord to open the eyes of the sinner.

II. Moses' Training

Notice Exodus 2:15-17

When Moses came to Midian and he sat by the well there were 7 daughters of the priest who came to water their flock and they were mistreated by the shepherds. After the women had filled the trough with water the shepherds moved their flocks in to drink the water the women had dipped from the well.

But Moses would not allow this to happen, so he stood up for the women. He helped them and allowed them to water their flock. Moses stood up against injustice in Egypt and he would also stand against it in Midian. Moses was a man who stood for what he believed. He was not a quitter. How easily it would have been for him after that incident in Egypt to say, "I am finished trying to help those who are in need. From this day forth I will live for myself and let others do as they please."

Moses was rebuked in Egypt but that did not stop him here in Midian from doing what was right. He was consistent in his actions.

Application:

Moses here is an example for all of us. There are going to be times as we serve the Lord that we will make mistakes and there will be times when other criticize us for what we are doing. Neither mistakes nor criticism can be permitted to keep us from serving. There have been many people who have started to serve and met with criticism and so they quit. There are always going to be critics and we will always make mistakes. But there is too much at stake to quit.

Galatians 6:9-10

⁹ *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

¹⁰ *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

2 Thessalonians 3:13

¹³ *But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.*

Let us remember the words of James.

James 1:2-4

² *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

³ *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James tells us that the different trials are tests of faith which God uses to bring us to spiritual maturity. Moses was run out of Egypt and rebuked for doing what was right, but he would not be discouraged, and he would not quit.

Notice Exodus 2:18-22

I want to bring this to an end by looking at verse 21. This verse shines much light upon the character of Moses. He has been run out of Egypt, rebuked for standing up for justice and here we see that he is content to dwell in Midian as a shepherd. From the palace to the field, just like Jesus. Moses accepted what had happened as God's hand on his life. He knew he needed to be separated from the palace and he was content to dwell in the wilderness instead. The world would say he went backwards in this move, but really, he was now in God's classroom. He was working on his Master's degree.

Conclusion:

Let us learn to accept whatever God allows us to go through and let us accept the place where He places us to endure it.