

"Lessons for Moses"

Part 2

Exodus 4-6

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of the life of Moses we were looking at the first of three meetings which God had with Moses to teach him three very important lessons. We shall get back to these three meetings shortly.

Last week we talked about something which is very vital if we are going to be effective in the ministry. That which is so vital is a deep knowledge of God. I am not talking about a saving knowledge, but I am talking about a personal intimate knowledge of God and His ways. God is more than willing to provide this knowledge to us as we follow Him. It often comes through personal experiences as we go through life and at other times it is found as we seek this knowledge. Let me show you some verses which we looked at last week:

**Proverbs 2:3-9**

- <sup>3</sup> *Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*
- <sup>4</sup> *If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*
- <sup>5</sup> *Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*
- <sup>6</sup> *For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*
- <sup>7</sup> *He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.*
- <sup>8</sup> *He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.*
- <sup>9</sup> *Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.*

This personal knowledge of God is so very important as we follow and serve Him. This knowledge is really the definition of eternal life.

**John 17:3**

<sup>3</sup> *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

Now, Moses knew ABOUT God and he had learned this while sitting on his momma's knee but now that he was called to be the emancipator of Israel, he needed to KNOW God at a deeper level. Much of this knowledge would come through the three encounters we are looking at.

**Lesson #1 - God is Sovereign.**

**Notice Exodus 4:20-23**

We looked at this last week so I will not spend much time here but there is something here that I want to make very clear in a moment. Moses needed to know of the sovereignty of God. Moses would go to Pharaoh and Moses would refuse to submit and let Israel go. The reason would be because God would harden Pharaoh's heart.

This is something that many people have trouble with. It has been taught that Pharaoh hardened his heart first, but that is not what the Bible tells us. God hardened his heart and then he hardened his own heart. This hardening of Pharaoh's heart was judicial. It was the judgment of the Lord upon Pharaoh for his sin. God could have killed him, and he would have gone to hell but instead God chose to allow him to live so that he could demonstrate His power through the plagues.

**Romans 9:17-18**

*<sup>17</sup> For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.*

*<sup>18</sup> Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.*

God would use Pharaoh for two main purposes:

1. To show forth His power.
2. To warn others of the danger of rejecting God's grace.

Pharaoh had rejected God and in so doing he allowed himself to enter into a situation where God would use him to speak to the world and God would do this by hardening his heart. This could happen to any person who rejects the grace of God repeatedly. That is exactly why it is so dangerous to suppress God's grace.

Now here is what I want you to understand from this: Pharaoh drowned in the Red Sea and went to hell, but he did not go to hell because God hardened his heart. He went to hell because he was a sinner who rejected the offer of God's grace. No one will ever go to hell because God hardens their heart, but they will go to hell because they are sinners.

Moses needed to know about the sovereignty of God because if not he would have seen his ministry as ineffective when Pharaoh refused to let Israel go. But after this meeting Moses would have the knowledge of God's sovereignty.

**Application:**

This is a lesson that we also need to learn. Maybe God is teaching you this lesson in your life right now because you have been witnessing to a friend or a loved one and you see no results. Maybe you are trying in your own power to reach them but what you really need to come to understand that only God can open their eyes. Therefore, He wants you to be faithful in sharing the Gospel and then allow Him to bring about the salvation.

**Lesson #2 - God is Holy.**

**Notice Exodus 4:24-26**

As Moses and his family journeyed toward Egypt the sun began to set and they made the choice to stay at a roadside inn which would have been a shell of a building designed to provide temporary shelter through the night. It was at this shelter that God struck Moses with a fever or some other kind of sickness with the intent of killing him.

The reason God did this seems to be that Moses had neglected to circumcise his son. It also seems from reading this text that the reason why Moses never did this was because his wife was completely against it. Let me show you why this was so important.

**Genesis 17:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> *And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.*

<sup>10</sup> *This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; **Every man child among you shall be circumcised.***

<sup>11</sup> *And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.*

<sup>12</sup> *And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.*

<sup>13</sup> *He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, **must needs be circumcised:** and **my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.***

Circumcision was a mark of God's covenant people. Moses chose to not circumcise his son due to the protests of his wife. Now, here in our text he finds himself on death's door. We are not told but possibly God made it know to him why he was about to die. At that moment his wife stepped in, performed the circumcision, and cast the piece of flesh at the feet of Moses. There are several lessons which we need to see here.

- a. **Moses' wife was the one who had objected and refused to allow Moses to circumcise his son, but it was Moses who was held accountable.**

**Application:**

All men need to learn the lesson that is seen here. God will hold the father accountable for the spiritual wellbeing of his children/his family. It is the father's responsibility to be sure that his children, while under his roof, are trained in the Word of God and are brought up to know and reverence God. That means it is on the father to find a church that preaches the Word and to then lead his family to that church. Too many times the dad is apathetic, and he does his thing and allows his wife to make all the spiritual decisions. That man needs to know that he will one day be held accountable. Then there are those who allow the wife to be the spiritual leader in the family because she is strong willed, and he does not want a confrontation on the home front. So, his wife takes the lead and even if she leads to a church just for entertainment or because it was her family's church, and not for solid Bible teaching, he goes along with it because he thinks it is easier to go with the flow instead of taking a stand. This happens all too often and it is so sad because many times families get plugged into churches that do not preach the Truth and so the children are deceived into believing a false gospel. The father will one day stand before the Lord and give an account for this.

**Ephesians 5:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*

<sup>23</sup> *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*

<sup>24</sup> *Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*

<sup>25</sup> *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

- b. **Moses learned here that God is HOLY, and He will not overlook disobedience even if it is to keep peace in the family. God is concerned even about the details regardless of who opposes.**

David had to learn also that God is concerned about the details when he moved the ark.

**2 Samuel 6:1-8**

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> And 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.

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

<sup>5</sup> And David and all the house of Israel 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.

<sup>6</sup> And 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.

<sup>7</sup> And 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.

<sup>8</sup> And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day.

The ark was not to be carried on a new cart, but it was to be carried by the Levities with staves through the rings.

God expects all His children to walk in obedience and especially those in positions of leadership.

### **James 3:1**

*My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.*

- c. **Before Moses could be effective for the Lord, he had to get his own house in order.**

I want to be very careful with what I am going to say so I will take the time to clarify this statement. Sometimes God brings affliction when one of His children has something in their lives that needs to be addressed.

Jonah is an example of what can.

### **Jonah 1:1-5**

*Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,*

*<sup>2</sup> Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.*

*<sup>3</sup> But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.*

*<sup>4</sup> But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.*

*<sup>5</sup> Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.*

Then in Hebrews we read of the chastisement that God brings on His children.

**Hebrews 12:6**

*<sup>6</sup> For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

Then there were those in the church at Corinth.

**1 Corinthians 11:20-21, 26-30**

*<sup>20</sup> When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.*

*<sup>21</sup> For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.*

*<sup>26</sup> For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*

*<sup>27</sup> Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.*

*<sup>28</sup> But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.*

*<sup>29</sup> For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.*

*<sup>30</sup> For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.*

Let me show you what the Psalmist wrote.

**Psalm 119:67, 71**

*<sup>67</sup> Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.*

*<sup>71</sup> It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.*

Now, not every sickness and trial are because of sin. Some are just the results of living in a world that is under the curse or some are allowed as trials of our faith. But some afflictions are the result of our house being out of order.

**Conclusion:**

God is holy and He will not allow sin and disobedience to slip by. He will be faithful to bring us to where we will have to deal with it. Is there an affliction in your life because of something that needs to be addressed?

Let me add one more thought here. We do all we can to be sure our children do not encounter the sufferings of this world. But let us learn from Moses that the sufferings are often used to bring the dross to the surface so that it can be taken away.