

"Lessons for Moses"

Part 3

Exodus 4-6

Introduction: We have been looking at three lessons which God taught to Moses and in these lessons was personal knowledge which Moses needed in order to be the leader which God desired for him to be. There was knowledge which Moses did not have concerning God and so God was about to teach him three very important lessons. It would be in these three encounters that Moses' knowledge would be increased. Moses knew about God from his parents but for the open door set before him now he needed to know God in a personal way. The first encounter came in Midian. The second encounter would come on the way to Egypt and the third encounter would come in Egypt.

Lesson #1 - God is sovereign.

Notice Exodus 4:21-23

God told Moses that He would harden the heart of Pharaoh. This showed the sovereignty of God. This hardening of Pharaoh's heart was judicial, and it was the result of God's judgment upon Pharaoh's sin.

Romans 9:17-18

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.

This hardening of Pharaoh's heart would make known two points to the world.

1. It would show forth God's power for because of Pharaoh's rebellion the plagues would come upon Egypt and would be known throughout the world.
2. This hardening would be to warn others of the danger of rejecting God's grace.

Lesson #2 - God is holy.

Notice Exodus 4:24-26

Here in this text God struck Moses with some kind of life-threatening sickness. Moses and his wife had stopped at an overnight shelter and it was there that God struck him. Moses' wife then took a flintstone and circumcised their son and cast the flesh at the feet of Moses. It seems here that Moses was living in disobedience to God's command due to the

protests of his wife. God had commanded his people to be circumcised as a mark of His covenant people.

Genesis 17:9-13

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

¹⁰ *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.*

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

¹² *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.*

¹³ *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' wife protested the circumcision and so Moses never followed through. It is interesting here in our text that Moses' wife is the one who was against the circumcision, but it was Moses whom God struck with the sickness.

Last week we looked at the lesson here for all men. We are the spiritual leaders of the family and we will be held accountable for what goes on in our family. We are to stand against sin in our family no matter who opposes it. Compromise is not an option even if it is to keep the unity of the family. Unity at the expense of Truth is treason to Jesus Christ.

This entire incident was to teach Moses of the holiness of God. It was to show him that God will not ignore sin and God wants His people to walk in obedience. David learned this when he moved the ark on a new cart instead of following the commands of God. Last week I reminded all of us that the end never justifies the means.

To bring this into our lives according to this context we must understand that God loves unity and He desires unity among the family and among His people but never at the expense of Truth. Never must we ignore sin to achieve this unity and let all the men know we will be held accountable for disobedience in the family.

Now we come to where we are going tonight. Following this experience Moses wife and sons turned back to Midian.

Exodus 18:1-5

When Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father in law, heard of all that God had done for Moses, and for Israel his people, and that the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt;

² Then Jethro, Moses' father in law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back,

³ And her two sons; of which the name of the one was Gershom; for he said, I have been an alien in a strange land:

⁴ And the name of the other was Eliezer; for the God of my father, said he, was mine help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh:

⁵ And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God:

After Zipporah returned to her father's house Moses then went on to meet up with his brother Aaron.

Notice Exodus 4:27-31

The people of Israel believed that God was working through Moses and Aaron. I can imagine that Moses at this time had great confidence. It is now time for Moses to confront Pharaoh.

Notice Exodus 5:1-14

The king of Egypt came up with a plan that Moses never expected. He took the straw away from the people of Israel, made them gather their own straw and required the same amount of bricks to be made. This was impossible to do and so because they could not meet the quota they were persecuted even more severely. The people of Israel were powerless against Pharaoh, so they turned on Moses.

Notice Exodus 5:15-21

Moses then went to God and voiced his disappointment.

Notice Exodus 5:22-23

Moses was devastated for he never expected anything like this. Moses blames God for sending him. This now brings us to the third lesson which Moses needed to learn about God.

Lesson #3 - God is faithful.

Notice Exodus 6:1-3

God tells Moses here that He had appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as El Shaddai but He was not known by the name Jehovah which is Yahweh. El Shaddai means Almighty God and the patriarchs knew God by this name and this was especially made known by the conception and birth of Isaac when Abraham was 100 years old. But they did not know God by the name Yahweh. The question then is, "What is the significance of the name Yahweh?"

Let me show you the Covenant God made to Abraham.

Genesis 15:

⁷ *And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, **to give thee this land to inherit it.***

⁸ *And he said, LORD God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?*

⁹ *And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.*

¹⁰ *And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not.*

¹¹ *And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.*

¹² *And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.*

¹³ *And he said unto Abram, **Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;***

¹⁴ ***And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.***

Abraham and his descendants would be the beneficiaries of this covenant, but it did not depend upon their faithfulness. It rested completely upon God's faithfulness. Abraham did not walk between the animals, but God did. So, it all rested upon the Lord.

Now the name Yahweh refers to this Covenant and to God's faithfulness to keep His Word.

Notice Exodus 6:4-8

Now if we slow down and look at these verses, we see that there are 7 "I WILLS" listed here and each one is connected with God's Covenant with Israel.

1) **I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.**

- 2) I will rid you out of their bondage.
- 3) I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:
- 4) I will take you to me for a people.
- 5) I will be to you a God.
- 6) I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.
- 7) I will give it you for an heritage.

This Covenant is an EVERLASTING Covenant that will extend into the future Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Let me show you what Ezekiel wrote.

Ezekiel 20:33-37, 41-42

³³ As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you:

³⁴ And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.

³⁵ And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.

³⁶ Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.

*³⁷ And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and **I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:***

⁴¹ I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen.

⁴² And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers.

Now let us get back to what God is teaching Moses. He is teaching him that no matter what the situation may look like God will be true to His promises. Moses was discouraged and frustrated because of what Pharaoh did and how the people responded. But God is saying to Moses, "Moses, to your fathers I revealed myself as El Shaddai but never as Yahweh. But now I am revealing My Self to you as the Covenant keeping God. The ONE who is faithful to His promises. Now go and tell the leaders of Israel that Yahweh, the

FAITHFUL GOD is going to bring them out of Egypt, and He is going to be true to His promises."

Moses so needed to hear this. He was so discouraged because of the situation. But now he had something to sustain him and that would be God's faithfulness. Moses would need this knowledge many times in the next 40 years for he would lead a rebellious group of people through the wilderness. He could hold on to the fact that God would be faithful to His Covenant no matter what the situation looked like.

Application:

This is an amazing Truth which all of us need in our lives. We have all been in situations in which it looked like God was no where around. There will be times in the future when it will look like evil is in complete control. People will rebel, they will oppress others and possibly us and we may wonder what God is doing. But in those times in our lives we can be sure that God is True to His Word. We can be sure that we are never alone. We can be sure that we are wrapped in His love.

Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Conclusion:

No matter what the situation is before us we **MUST** continue to serve and trust God for the results.