

GOD'S SUPER HEROES - MOSES

I began speaking last week about God's superheroes. God's leaders could be called super heroes because they do what they do in the power of his holy spirit, and that separates them from the rest of the population who live purely by human power. Last week we looked at a super hero named Gideon. Gideon lived in a chaotic time during the period of the judges, a time when everyone did as was right in his own eyes. The time of the Judges was a time when the people went through 7 sin cycles. Whenever things were going right, they began drifting away from God. As they drifted away from God, life began to deteriorate to the point that they cried out for God to save them, and God in his mercy would raise up a judge to deliver them. That cycle went on over and over again.

Today we want to look at Moses. Moses could very well be the most outstanding person in the Old Testament. He is the only man on record who spoke face to face with God. God said, "If I have any other prophet, I will speak to him in dreams and in visions, but not my servant Moses. I will speak to him face to face as a man speaks with his friend." God not only spoke to Moses, he also spoke through Moses in giving his law and the 10 commandments. Moses was unusual even when He came to die. God called him up to Mount Nebo alone. There Moses died, and the Lord Himself buried him.

Moses was a man that was so great that even Hollywood can't ignore him. "The Ten Commandments" still gets high ratings whenever it is shown on TV, and now a new generation has been introduced to Moses through Dreamworks' *The Prince of Egypt*. Today we will learn lessons from the life of this great man.

HOW GOD RAISES UP SOMEONE TO SERVE HIM

1. GOD USES UNLIKELY PEOPLE

In the Superman movies, Clark Kent is portrayed as a bumbling loser who stumbles around and can't quite get his act together. He is certainly not a likely candidate to be Superman, but when you see him loosening his tie and running into a phone booth, you'd better watch out! The man of steel is on his way! We saw last week that Gideon was like Clark Kent. He was the least likely person in all the nation to be a leader for God, but God chose him. As we look at the life of Moses, we find that it was also unlikely that Moses' life would turn out as it did.

How likely was it that a Hebrew child would be made a member of the Egyptian royal family? That was almost impossible, but it happened. Moses grew up as the prince of Egypt.

How likely it was it that a prince would become a shepherd in the wilderness? Not at all likely, but it happened.

Then when Moses was 80 years old, God called him to go back into Egypt to confront the pharaoh. How likely was that that an 80-year old man would go into Egypt and defeat the entire Egyptian culture? God uses unlikely people who are in unlikely circumstances.

2. GOD PREPARES US FOR SERVICE

It has often been said that Moses' life can be divided into three distinct time periods. Moses spent 40 years thinking he was somebody. He then spent 40 years learning that he was nobody. Then, he spent the last 40 years of his life learning what God can do with a nobody.

a) GOD USES PEOPLE TO PREPARE US

The Israelites were a nation of slaves living under the rule of the Egyptians and were forced to cruel slave labor. Then the pharaoh decided that he would slow down the Jewish population growth by throwing every Hebrew baby boy that was born into the Nile River. In order to save Moses' life, his parents put him in a basket and hid him among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River.

Exodus 2:4-7, "His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. ⁶She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. ⁷Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

When the daughter of pharaoh took Moses to her home, she raised him as her son. The historian, Josephus, tells us that because the Pharaoh had no heir to the throne, Moses was being raised up to be the next king. He attended school at the Temple of the Sun which was the Oxford of the ancient world.

Acts 7:22, "Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action."

Moses studied medicine, astronomy, philosophy and Law. He learned the strategy of warfare and the characteristics of Egypt's enemies. It is said that by the time he was 30 that he had already led the Egyptian army to a victory over the Ethiopians. Moses had become a very competent leader by being educated in a pagan system.

God uses people throughout our lives to mold us. Our parents, our extended family and our friends and teachers are used by God in our lives. But what if some of those people are not saved? Does God ever use unsaved people to mold us? He absolutely does. Pharaoh did not know the true God. Neither did the teachers Moses had know the true God, but they knew things that Moses needed to learn. Understand that there are no perfect environments on this earth, and God will and does use imperfect people to teach us lessons.

b) GOD USES NEGATIVE CIRCUMSTANCES TO PREPARE US

Someone said, "God will never use you publicly until he has tutored you privately." When Moses grew up, he was aware of his Hebrew heritage, and one day when he saw one of his Jewish brothers being mistreated by an Egyptian, he killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. When the king heard what had been done, he realized that Moses had divided loyalties, and he did not want a man like that in the palace. So he determined to kill Moses, and Moses ran away into the desert.

According to Exodus 2:15, Moses went into the land of Midian. The land of Midian is a flat, barren area covered mostly by sand, shrubs and rocks. Moses was about to receive a postgraduate degree in God's university—the desert.

It is interesting that the word desert in Hebrew means "to speak." The desert is the place where God speaks some of his most important messages to us.

In the desert, you are forced to look to God in a way that you would not otherwise. It is there, in that barren place, that you understand what is really in your heart and your need for God. Sooner or later, we all face our own wilderness. That's where we learn best.

In 2 Corinthians 1:3-6, Paul tells of how God used negative circumstances in his life to prepare him to help others. He said, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer."

Paul said, "God allowed us to suffer so that we would be able to minister effectively in the future to others who would be suffering. You never have the kind of full compassion for someone until you have been where they are. For that reason, God sometimes allows you to go through negative circumstances.

c) GOD USES DISAPPOINTMENTS TO PREPARE US

Sometimes God uses disappointed expectations to make us strong. God promised Abraham a son in his old age, but Abraham had to wait 25 years before the fulfillment of that promise. That was to Abraham the death of a vision.

Sometimes, God waits a long time before granting us what we think we so desperately need. During that time of waiting, God asks us the question, “Will you still serve me although I have not done what you have asked?”

During that time of waiting, God stretches our faith and makes us ready for future ministry.

3. GOD GIVES US MORE THAN WE THINK WE CAN ACCOMPLISH

God’s dream for your life is bigger than your dream for your life. We dream of having a little bit of success because a little bit of success can be comfortable.

God’s dream will take you beyond your comfort zone and challenge you to do something bigger than anything you could have imagined. When God called Moses to leave his life in the desert of Midian and to go into Egypt to deliver the Israelites, Moses was not eager to sign on the dotted line. He didn’t feel like he could do it. His feelings about the matter are pretty well summed up in

Exodus 12:13, “But Moses said, “O Lord, please send someone else to do it.”

If you check God’s call to different individuals in the Bible, you’ll see that many of them had pretty much the same kind of response. When God called Jeremiah, Jeremiah replied in 1:1, “Ah, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am only a child.” Gideon was the same. When God called Gideon, he responded with, “How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

These people were saying, “Here I am Lord; send someone else.”

God doesn’t call us to things that we can easily do. He calls us to do things that we cannot do unless He does it through us.

If what you’re thinking about doing is something that you’re sure you can do, then it probably did not come from God. God puts us in situations that stretch us. He puts us in situations that seem so impossible that we have to give the credit to him for any success.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. GOD HAS BEEN ACTIVELY WORKING IN YOUR LIFE TO PREPARE YOU FOR SERVICE

When we think of someone being prepared for God's work, we generally think of such things as bible college and seminary. Those institutions can be used by God, but they are certainly not the most important thing. The most important part of your preparation has been what God has used in the course of your life.

2. GOD DOESN'T WASTE YOUR PAIN

Lois Huseby wrote of this very subject "God Doesn't Waste Our Pain," as she told of how her family's home and belongings of 26 years was destroyed in a terrible fire.

She said, "I turned to the Lord and His Word for the comfort and strength that I knew only He could give.

In Deuteronomy 33:12 it says, "Let the beloved of the Lord rest secure in Him, for He shields him all day long, and the one the Lord loves rests between His shoulders." In the days that followed I would just imagine climbing up into God's lap each night and resting with my head on His chest as He held me in His arms while I cried. He was there during those dark, weary hours of the night when my fears and uncertainties were at their worst. He calmed my fears and gave me peace as I rested in Him."

It's been said that God doesn't waste our pain. I believe God used the fire to help us focus more clearly on Him and to be humbly sensitive to His unforeseen call. In May of last year, my husband was contacted by President Nelson Miles at Frontier School of the Bible in regard to filling the position as Dean of Students and asked if I would consider assisting as the Dean of Women. From the time we received the call we realized this was what God had been preparing us for. He helped us to let go of the things that would have held us back from saying yes to this life-changing decision.

Today as we serve the Lord at Frontier School of the Bible our joy is full and His blessings are abundant for He's taken care of our every need far above what we could ever envision. When we humbly seek Him even in painful situations and entrust our lives to Him, His blessings are incredible. God didn't waste our pain but used it to deepen our faith in Him and to prepare us for His call to ministry at Frontier. To God be the glory!

If you find yourself in "God's School of the Desert" don't get discouraged. God has a purpose for you being there. He is not wasting your pain. He is teaching you and preparing you for something bigger.

3. ONE DAY IT WILL ALL MAKE SENSE

When you look at your life and the things that are going on, many times it looks like one of these puzzles with many thousands of pieces. It's hard to believe that there is any kind of plan in that puzzle at all, but we all know that there is. The makers of that puzzle have been very careful to cut each piece in a very precise way so that they will eventually fit together and make a beautiful picture. That is the way it is with your life. The individual pieces may seem to make no sense, but God has been careful to make sure that each piece will fit together to make a beautiful picture.

ACTION STEPS

1. OFFER YOUR LIFE TO THE LORD EACH MORNING AS A LIVING SACRIFICE

When I say a "living sacrifice, I am talking about no strings attached and no conditions.

Someone wrote a poem that goes like this:

I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go, Dear Lord,
Real service is what I desire.
I'll sing you a solo anytime, dear Lord
Just don't ask me to sing in the choir.
I'll do what you want me to do, dear lord,
I like to see things come to pass,
But don't ask me to teach boys and girls, oh lord
I'd rather just stay in my class.
I'll do what you want me to do, dear lord
I yearn for thy kingdom to thrive
I'll give you my nickels and dimes, dear Lord
But please don't ask me to tithe.
I'll go where you want me to go, dear lord
I'll say what you want me to say;
I'm busy just now with myself, dear lord
I'll help you some other day.

Unfortunately, that is the way many of us deal with our service for the Lord. We know in our hearts that we want to serve him, but we want to do it on our terms. God wants wholehearted service. He wants servants who will give themselves as a living sacrifice to be used in any time and in any way he wants.

2. LIVE YOUR LIFE WITH A SERVICE MENTALITY

How you think has a great deal to do with perceive life to be. If you have a mindset that is centered on you, you will likely perceive a lot of things that happen throughout the day as problems and aggravations. On the other hand, if your mind is set on serving God, suddenly, many of those problems become an opportunity for being a witness for Christ. You have the opportunity to show others what a difference Christ makes in your life by how you respond to those problems and aggravations.

3. LIVE EACH DAY AS IF IT WERE YOUR LAST

Why? Because it may be. If it is not, then it is one day closer to your last. And if you have not noticed, life goes by very quickly. Your life is nothing more than a passing shadow that will soon be gone. See each day as an opportunity to serve the Lord and bring Him glory because that is the most important thing that you can do.