

For GC Discussion

- How should Moses have responded to God as He spoke to him out of the burning bush? What kinds of things can we do to encourage this kind of response in ourselves?
- What do these chapters teach us about God and His heart for His people?
- How should the truth of who God is affect our lives day by day?

Next Week: we move on to look at Moses first attempts to persuade Pharaoh to let God's people go.

Notes and Questions

For Worship: Listen to '***I will follow***' by Chris Tomlin. You can find it on YouTube, or on the Hill City Church blog on the website.



Week 2: The Redeemer Called

Exodus Chapters 3-4

This Weeks Summary

In this weeks text we see that, despite the disappointment of the previous chapters, and the desperate place God's people were left in, God was still in control and is now going to begin His plan of redemption through His chosen vessel Moses.

For Study:

Here are some more verses on 3 of the main subject areas in this weeks message:

God Almighty: 1 Chronicles 29:10-13

Psalm 93:1-5

Psalm 135:1-21

Isaiah 43:8-21

Implicit Obedience: Deuteronomy 28:1-14

Joshua 1:1-9

John 14:15-31

James 1:19-27

Fearless Faith: Psalm 118:5-14

Isaiah 41:8-16

Hebrews 12:1-3

As we move on in our study of the book of Exodus, we see that, despite his initial failure, Moses is still the man that God has picked out to be the vehicle through whom He will rescue His people. Here are a few more things we can draw out of this text:

40 Years of Waiting

What the text of Exodus can't easily convey to us is the length of time that there is between the end of chapter 2, and then the events of chapter 3. Acts 7 makes it clear to us that Moses was 40 years old when he was chased out of Egypt, and then after 40 more years God revealed Himself to him in the burning bush. Like so many of his forefathers before him, Moses was made to wait a long time before he saw the fruition of what he desired for God's people. It's fascinating to ask the question - what was God doing in these 40 years?

We know that nothing in our lives is ever wasted by the God who is working all things for our good, and yet when you get to the end of those 40 years and read these chapters in front of us this week, you could be forgiven for thinking that Moses is in a worse place than he was when he left Egypt all those years ago. Back then he was willing to stand up for his brothers, and his passion to see them released from slavery and to see something done about their oppression was evident. Now he seems to be reduced to being insecure, terrified, and completely lacking in any passion or faith that God could use him to set the people of Israel free. We need to recognise just how massive what God was asking of Moses was, and not give him too much of a hard time, but still - he hardly looks like the deliverer that God's people needed.

Nevertheless, it might well be that God had Moses right where He wanted him. Before he was headstrong, impulsive, and though his passion was commendable, he channeled it in completely the wrong way - in actions completely detached from the God of his people. From this point on we're going to see Moses travel on a journey with God that leads to his being described as the most humble man on earth. It is very much a cliche, but it's hard to deny the principle that God needs to empty us of ourselves before He can fill us with all that He wants in our lives, and that appears to be exactly what happens for Moses.

The Desire for Implicit Faith

I always find it surprising the initial interaction between God and Moses as the Lord tells him what it is He wants him to do. Moses immediate

response is 'who am I' to do this, and God responds with a promise - a sign that Moses can see as proof that God will do this through him - and yet it's not what you'd expect. God tells Moses that the sign He'll give him of His presence with him is that he will bring His people to this very mountain (Horeb) to worship. What God is saying to Moses is - you'll know this is going to happen and that I've been with you, when it's happened and you are standing back on this mountain having led my people out of slavery. What God is asking Moses for here is implicit faith - He's urging Moses to go into Egypt with nothing more than His promise that He will one day bring His people back to this mountain.

As the text goes on we see that God is gracious to Moses in giving him signs to perform as he goes into Egypt, and even when Moses' doubts extend beyond those signs. This should be of great comfort to us in our moments of weakness and fear when we struggle to take God at His word - He's willing to help us along the way. That shouldn't however allow us to lose the fact that the ideal for God's people is implicit obedience - God's word should be enough for us. If He says something is true, or commands us to steps of obedience that should be all we need to act on those words. God is absolutely trustworthy, and always faithful to His people, and so His word should always be enough.

A Ridiculous Scenario

Lastly this week let's recognise just how incredible this scene before us really is. We see Moses and his small family travelling from the land of Midian towards the great nation of Egypt. Can you imagine the conversations that may have happened on the way as they travel through towns and villages on their journey? 'Moses, why are you going to Egypt, what are you going to do there? Maybe set up your own sheep-farming business, or perhaps learn a new trade?' What is Moses answer? 'Well I'm going to ask Pharaoh if he'll let a few million of his slaves go free and if he'll let me lead them into the desert!' It's a statement of lunacy not far off me telling you I'm going to America to persuade Barack Obama to release to me all of his prisoners and let me fly them out of the States to somewhere else in the world - it's just not going to happen. And yet, that's exactly what God has called Moses to do. It isn't crazy, but the only reason it isn't is because of just who it is who is talking to Moses - He's the 'I Am' - the God above all other gods, and here is His perfect chance to prove that. There is literally no other way Moses can do what he has been called to unless the God who is greater than all the gods of Egypt stands with him - and that's exactly what we're about to see unfold.