

Small Beginnings What God Can Do With You

Exodus 4:10–12

10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

11 So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD? 12 Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

Few Bible stories are more familiar to us than the story of Moses. Many books and movies have been made about it. Every Sunday School child from the beginning has heard the story of Moses and the exodus with the plagues God brought upon Egypt.

It is foundational to the Jewish faith. It is the beginning of their religious system. And it is always considered to be their greatest victory.

Of the Bible characters only David and Jesus are mentioned more times than Moses.

Probably, beside Jesus, no one else has been more used by God to influence our world.

By the hand of Moses the children of Israel were delivered from slavery.

By the hand of Moses they received the law of God and their worship system.

By the hand of Moses we have the first five books of the Bible. The largest contribution made by any one man. And though he wrote of things from the creation until the days of Joshua, none of his statements has ever been proven wrong or scientifically incorrect. Pretty good since that period of time covers over 2000 years.

So this month we want to take our messages from the life of Moses. Our prayer is that God would have lessons to teach us that would make us the people we need to be. And that we might be able to experience the power of God in our own lives.

- I. Moses was born under dreadful conditions.
 - A. He was born a slave in a foreign land.
 1. Even though Joseph had once been second in all of Egypt, now a Pharaoh came on the scene that did not know or remember Joseph.
 2. The Egyptians feared the Israelites for their number grew very large.
 3. So they thought to make their lives severe and dissuade them from having children.
 4. So they were enslaved to build the great monuments of the Egyptians.
 - B. He was born under affliction, he was to be cast into the river.

1. Once the Egyptians discovered that that would not work they commanded them to kill all the boy babies by throwing them in the Nile river.
2. The safety of the entire family depended up following the king's command.
3. To disobey could bring swift judgment upon the two children they already had.
4. Heb 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

II. He was born to an insignificant family.

A. Listen to the blessing that Levi's father Jacob left him with.

1. Gen. 49: 5 "Simeon and Levi are brothers; Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place. 6 Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; For in their anger they slew a man, And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox. 7 Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob And scatter them in Israel.

B. Like so many who did not come from greatness so Moses.

1. Who was Abraham
 - a. From a family of idol worshipers
 - b. But look what God did with him.
 - c. He is considered the father of all those who have faith.
 - d. His faith is renowned throughout scripture.
 - e. He became the father of many nations.
 - f. Through him the Messiah will come into the world.
2. Who was Jacob
 - a. His name means trickster or deceiver.
 - b. And so he was.
 - c. But God changed his name to Israel, meaning prince with God.
 - d. Through his 12 sons came the 12 tribes of Israel.
 - e. Through him the Messiah will come into the world.
3. Who was David
 - a. The 8th son of a large family.

- b. His grandmother was a Moabite.
- c. Just a kid.
- d. But through him God slew the giant Goliath.
- e. He becomes king of Israel.
- f. He writes hundreds of songs and invents many instruments of music with which to worship God.
- g. Through him the enemies of Israel are subdued.
- h. Through his work the temple will be built by his son and all the worship surrounding it comes from David.
- i. Through him the Messiah will come into the world.

III. God did not choose Moses for who he was or what he had.

- A. He would later be known for his primary characteristic, humility, hardly what we would expect from a leader, a deliverer.
- B. Look at others that God has used.
 - 1. Sampson won the battle with the jawbone of a donkey.
 - 2. Gideon won the battle with a torch and a clay jar.
 - 3. Joshua felled the walls of Jericho with trumpets and a shout.
 - 4. Jesus fed the multitude with five loaves and two fish.
- C. It is not in our ability but our availability.
 - 1. Moses was hardly great.
 - 2. Moses delivered the children of Israel with a stick, his shepherds staff.
- D. Zec 4:9 Then you will know That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. 10 For who has despised the day of small things?
 - 1. In Zachariah's day things were very depressing.
 - 2. They rebuilt the temple but it was nothing like the majestic temple that Solomon had built.
 - 3. But notice what the Lord says to the people through Zechariah.
 - 4. 10 For who has despised the day of small things?

IV. Our success is based on the power of God and not on us.

- A. 1 Cor 1:26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the

foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption — 31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

B. So there is nothing that you cannot do if God leads you.

MOSES AND THE RED SEA

NINE-YEAR-OLD JOEY was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

God Delivers Israel by Moses

Ac 7:17–22; 17 “But when the time of the promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt 18 till another king arose who did not know Joseph. 19 This man dealt treacherously with our people, and oppressed our forefathers, making them expose their babies, so that they might not live. 20 At this time Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father’s house for three months. 21 But when he was set out, Pharaoh’s daughter took him away and brought him up as her own son. 22 And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.

The Faith of Moses

Heb 11:23–29; 23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command.

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.