

Moses And God

Introduction. Sometimes we learn more from weaknesses than strengths. If I brought up Moses to you, what would cross your mind? Faithful? Great leader? Servant of God? Certainly all of these are true (Hebrews 3:5). Moses was an amazing man who was full of faith, but in response to God's call to bring His people out of Egyptian bondage, Moses made excuses. In a similar way, Christians have been called to bring people out of the bondage of sin through the gospel (2 Timothy 2:24-26). We will trace the history of Moses and God in Exodus 2-4 to reinforce the critical work of teaching the gospel and the unacceptability of excuses.

I. MOSES: He was afraid (Exodus 2:14; 3:6); GOD: He said "Go" (Exodus 3:10)

- A. The Lord's commandments about evangelizing the lost are plain (John 15:16; Matthew 28:18-20). Christians are shy and uncomfortable when speaking to others about religion because they are afraid to fail.
- B. John McCain said, "In the past, I've been able to overcome my fears because of an acute sense of an even greater fear — that of feeling remorse. You can live with pain. You can live with embarrassment. Remorse is an awful companion. And whatever the unwelcome consequences of courage, they are unlikely to be worse than the discovery that you are less than you pretend to be." With study, we can know what we need to teach people the gospel (Isaiah 1:18; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 3:15).
- C. Thom Rainer, when studying what non-Christians thought about Christians, discovered four prominent attitudes:
 1. They would like to develop a friendship with a Christian. They are really interested in what Christians believe and how they carry out their beliefs. They want to find a Christian who would be willing to spend time with them.
 2. They would like to learn about the Bible from a Christian. The Bible really fascinates them, but they may not want to go to a stuffy and unknown church to learn about it. They think it would be nice if a Christian invited them to study the Bible in his home or Starbucks.
 3. They wish they could learn to be a better husband/wife/dad/mom, etc., from a Christian. Their spouse is threatening to divorce them, and they think they mean it this time. They know their neighbor is a Christian, and they seem to have it together, so they are willing to swallow their pride and ask for help.
 4. They wish a Christian would take them to his or her church. They really would like to visit a church, but they are not particularly comfortable going by themselves. They could be 30 years old, and have never had a Christian invite them to church in their whole life.
- D. Non-Christians want to interact with Christians. They want to see Christians' actions match their beliefs. They want Christians to be real.
 1. In one study he conducted, Rainer found only 5 percent of non-Christians are antagonistic toward Christians. It is time to stop believing the lies we have been told. The harvest is abundant (Luke 10:2)!

2. Satan is the author of excuses. There is no reason to wait to reach those who do not know Jesus Christ. We must go now. The harvest is waiting, and the Lord of the harvest has prepared the way.

II. MOSES: He said, “Who me ... I can’t” (Exodus 3:11); GOD: He said, “I’ll help” (Exodus 3:12)

- A. He had been a man of power and deeds when he was 40 (Acts 7:22-25), but now that he was 80, he was a lowly shepherd (Exodus 3:1; 7:7). But Moses was probably the most qualified of all men to lead the children of Israel. The unique abilities God saw in him would be put to the test; however, he was not to fear because God would be with him every step of the way.
- B. Even though we cannot perform miracles like Moses, do you still have the faith that God is with you (Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 13:5-6)? The uneducated and untrained disciples were transformed from early failures into fearless men (Mark 14:50, 72; 16:10-20; Acts 4:13; 8:4). Sometimes I think we do not believe that the gospel has any power anymore (Romans 1:15-16). We try to teach a couple of people who may not respond and we are ready to give up. If you feel inadequate, God can make you sufficient for serving Him (2 Corinthians 3:5-6). Christ promised to with us always (Matthew 28:20).

III. MOSES: He asked, “By what authority” (Exodus 3:13); GOD: God said, “I’ll show them” (Exodus 3:13; 4:2-9)

- A. In Luke 24:11, the apostles had the same problem of unbelief. The children of Israel had grown very ignorant because of their hard bondage. They needed to be reminded of God’s self-existent, eternal, and unchangeable nature (John 8:58; Revelation 1:18). God would be faithful and true to the Israelites.
- B. Christians have a critical deficiency in knowing why they believe the Bible.
 1. Consider how much more plausible creation is compared to evolution, even though the scientific community has embraced a “theory” that cannot even be proved. In fact, the more science discovers about our universe, the more unlikely evolution becomes!
 2. About 90% of all Americans believe in God but only 34% believe that the Bible is the reliable word of God. Most have reduced belief in the scriptures to a mere “leap of faith,” but it is far more than that.
 3. Look at all the textual evidence that we have to support the Bible. The New Testament alone is without a doubt the best-attested book of the ancient world. There are approximately 5,300 pieces of manuscript in existence in comparison to works of Thucydides or Homer, of which there may be less than ten copies. Hebrews 4:11-13 teaches that we cannot hide from unbelief. Jesus Christ has the authority now (Matthew 28:18; John 1:1, 14; 6:68; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:17).
- C. Pray for open doors for the gospel, and wisdom to speak with clarity and grace (Colossians 4:2-6; James 1:5).

IV. MOSES: He said, “I’m not a good speaker” (Exodus 4:10); GOD: God said, “I made you — Just say what I tell you” (Exodus 4:11-12)

- A. Moses used this excuse two more times after the Israelites rejected him and Pharaoh made the work harder (Exodus 5:21-23; 6:9-12, 30). We do not need to be eloquent speakers or have our theological degrees in order to understand and explain the scriptures to someone.
- B. If we were to be in charge of a plan to spread the gospel, we would probably pick the most eloquent speaker in the brotherhood, the nicest auditorium the church could afford, and video it for YouTube so that the whole world could watch. All those wonderful plans sound great, but that is the wisdom of man.
- C. God chooses those who are not the most eloquent to do His will (2 Corinthians 10:10). He is able to use man’s weakness to His glory (1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5; 3:6-8). All He wants from us is a sincere desire to spread the truth (1 Timothy 4:13, 16; 2 Timothy 1:13).

V. MOSES: He said, “Send someone else” (Exodus 4:13); GOD: God said, “Take someone with you” (Exodus 4:14-15)

- A. At this point, God’s anger burned against Moses because he was offering every excuse he could think of (Luke 14:18-20). Human disobedience — especially by God’s people — is serious. Though God is “slow to anger,” disobedience inevitably produces His wrath. If we are honest, we know that we make excuses because we do not really want to obey the Lord all of the time.
- B. But God promised to send Aaron with him to be His mouthpiece (Exodus 7:1-2). Jesus sent the apostles out in pairs to preach the gospel (Luke 10:1) because He knew the power of togetherness (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12). Realizing the terror of the Lord in judgment, we have to confess Him before men or we will show that we are ashamed of Him (Mark 8:38; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11; Revelation 21:8).

Conclusion. Moses went on to lead the children of Israel out of bondage. He went down in infamy because of His great faith. However, his beginnings were just as fraught with anxiousness as our own service to God. The Lord has promised to be with us (Romans 8:31), He has taught us what to say (Mark 16:16), He has given His word to cast down all false arguments (2 Corinthians 10:3-6), and eternal life if we obey Him (Hebrews 5:8-9). Will you be a Moses? Will you follow his example before he went on to greatness or will you follow the example of Moses, the great leader of God’s people? Isaiah said in 6:8, “Here am I, send me!”