

Faith In Action-Fall 2023

Lesson Title: Lessons of Faith from Moses (Part 1)

Biblical Texts: Hebrews 11:23-28; **Exodus 3:1-3**, 10-12, 12-14: 4:1-3; 4:10-12; 4:13-16

Objectives:

1. Understand Moses' walk of faith.
2. Understand how God equips us for faithful action.
3. Last week we saw Adam hide from God because he was afraid. This week we see Moses approached God when he is afraid
 - A. Do our fears push us toward God or away from Him?

Introduction: .

One of Hebrews' heroes of the faith is Moses. In truth, Moses's life had a lot of "ups and downs" with regard to his faith. In Hebrews 11, several instances of faithful action are mentioned, some by his parents and some by Moses himself.

- I. Moses as a child.
 - A. Moses' parents and the Hebrew midwives are faced with a dilemma.
 1. All male Hebrew babies are to be killed by order of Pharaoh.
 2. What is God's will in this setting?
 - a) Choice 1: Obey the rulers and the law of the land.
 - b) Choice 2: Protect and care for the child.
 3. They chose to protect and care for the child.
 - a) They put him in the river in a box.
 - b) By God's grace, he was found and adopted by Pharaoh's daughter.
 - c) He was nursed by his mother.
 - B. Questions:
 1. How clearly do you think they saw the will of God in this situation?
 2. What might have made them willing to take the chance to leave their son in a river?
- II. Moses as a shepherd
 - A. Moses defends an oppressed Hebrew and is exiled.
 1. He loses his position as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.
 2. He loses the perks of Egyptian aristocracy.
 3. He is "reduced" to a despised class in Egyptian society – a shepherd.
 - B. Moses receives an astounding calling.

1. He finds a burning bush that is not consumed.
2. A voice comes out of the bush to address him.
3. The voice speaks with the authority of God.
4. The voice gives Moses an “impossible” task.

C. Moses is faced with a dilemma.

1. Moses hears a clear command.
2. Moses does not feel he is fit to carry out the command.
3. Moses’ choices
 - a) Choice 1: Trust himself and turn down the command.
 - b) Choice 2: Trust God and accept the command.
4. After verbal wrestling with God, Moses accepts the command.
 - a) He returns to Egypt with Aaron as a helper.
 - b) He gives a message of deliverance to the Hebrews.
 - c) He confronts Pharaoh and his magicians.
 - d) He is empowered to prophesy and perform wonders affecting the whole of Egypt.
 - e) In the final plague, Moses instructed the Hebrews in keeping the Passover, protecting them from the death of their firstborn while breaking the will of Pharaoh.
 - f) He leads Israel out of captivity and across the Red Sea on dry ground.

D. Questions:

1. How much of God’s plans did Moses know at this time? How many of the details? Do you think he still had questions?
2. Where would he get the faith to lead this nation into the desert?
 - a) He knew what the desert was like. He had been a shepherd there. He knew the limited food and water.
3. When do you think that Moses realized what God was going to do at the Red Sea? He was apparently not told the whole plan until the last moment.

III. Moses as the leader of the nation of Israel.

A. During their 40 years wandering in the desert, Israel faced many problems.

1. Moses led them, according to the commands of God, to find food, water, and healing.
2. The means by which these were provided were unusual – manna from heaven, flocks of quail (from who knows where), water from rocks and contaminated wells, and a bronze snake on a stick.

B. Repeatedly, Moses was faced with problems too big for man to solve. Again and again, he saw God’s plan, trusted God to carry His plan forward, and acted in faith expecting God to provide.

C. Questions:

1. How do we come to know God's plans?
2. How do we come to know our part in God's plans?
3. What do we need so that we can courageously and fearlessly commit our reputations, property, and lives in God's service?