

Exodus: No Longer Slaves 3

“The Making of a Leader”

Moses was on the threshold of Egyptian greatness.

The little boy in the basket had become a man. Having been trained in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, he was “powerful in speech and action” (Acts 7:22 NIV).

Think about this. With his intimate knowledge of Egyptian culture, his powerful position in the house of Pharaoh and his personal connection with the Hebrews, Moses was poised to lead Israel out of Egypt.

But God would not use his Egyptian political power; the Lord would call him out of Egypt and give him the authority and power of God’s name.

This is a great picture of learning to lead God’s way.

This is a great picture of the making of a leader, God’s way.

The Making of a Leader, God’s Way

To get a deeper understanding, we need to consult with the book of Hebrews:

Hebrews 11:24-27 - *By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, v.25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. v.26 He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. v.27 By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.*

1) God was stirring his heart for a people.

- a) God put this burden on his heart before he knew of his calling.

Acts 7:23, 24 - When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel. And seeing one of them being wronged, he defended the oppressed man and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian...

- b) He was being moved by their burdens.

Exodus 2:11 - One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens...

- i) When we look closely at Exodus 2:11, we discover several clues that Moses loved God’s people.

(1) Exodus 2:11 NIV - *One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor...*

(2) The most obvious clue is the phrase "his own people."

When Moses visited the labor camps where the Hebrews lived and worked, he felt a connection with them. He realized that they were his very own family.

ii) Going out to see the Hebrews was a life-changing trip.

(1) Exodus 2:11 says, "he watched them at their hard labor." This verb for watching (*yara*) means more than simply "to look or to see." It means "to see with emotion."

(2) It is the kind of watching that demands intense personal involvement with what one sees. In a word, it requires compassion.

c) Three Lessons for Today:

i) Anointed leaders are able to discern when God is working in their hearts.

ii) Anointed leaders don't ignore God-given burdens. They are always looking into their burdens.

iii) When God is giving you an assignment for the Kingdom, it almost always starts with a burden.

2) **God was establishing a new identity in Moses.**

a) What is surprising about Moses' deep sympathy for those who suffered oppression is that he had been raised to show utter contempt for slaves.

i) One of the primary goals of Pharaoh's educational system was to reinforce the pride of those in power.

ii) Many historical documents confirm that the ancient Egyptians stressed the value of education and hard study while having a deep contempt for manual labor.

In the world that Moses lived, slaves are described as the "living dead" and they are compared to donkeys.

b) This is the historical background for the choice that Moses made in Hebrews 11:24.

By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter...

He would refuse to be identified as the son of Pharaoh because he wanted to be called a true son of God.

He had everything to lose and nothing to gain, but the moment he was moved to action with a God-given burden, he made his choice. From then on, he would be a despised Hebrew rather than a privileged Egyptian.

3) God was removing Egypt from his heart.

In light of the supreme courts ruling, understand that God is calling His people to come out of the world, and to be separate.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 NIV - *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? v.15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? v.16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." v.17 Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." v.18 And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."*

Before Moses could lead God's people out of Egypt, God had to get Egypt out of him.

- a) God was loosening his attachment to the treasures of this world.
- b) Moses had everything the world had to offer. He had grown up as one of Pharaoh's grandsons, enjoying all the riches of Egypt.
- c) In 1 Timothy 3:3, the Apostle Paul says a leader cannot be a lover of money (a lover of worldly stuff)!
- d) Take another look at Exodus 2:11.

One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people.

The word used to describe his visit is very significant. "He went out." This same Hebrew verb (*yatza*) is later used to describe the exodus. There seems to be a connection: Before Israel could go out of Egypt, Moses needed to go out of Egypt, emotionally first and then physically.

- e) God calls us to identify with His people, even when it causes us pain and persecution.
 - i) Some people in Moses' position, would have figured out a way to stay in Pharaoh's court. "With my influence," they would rationalize, "I could do more good for the Hebrews here than I could ever hope to accomplish out in the slave camps."
 - ii) Moses took a radically God-centered approach. As far as he was concerned, there could be no compromise with Pharaoh. He was called to forsake sin, with all its pleasures, even if it meant suffering disgrace for Christ.
- f) We too, are called to suffer "for the sake of Christ."

Hebrews 11:26, 27 - *He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. v.27 By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.*

- i) According to scholars the phrase "reproach of Christ," indicates an actual

participation by Moses in Christ's shame in the same way as the saints who follow Christ later also share.

Don't let people of the world shame you for following your convictions for standing up for biblical righteousness.

The reproach of Christ is of greater wealth than the treasures that come with being culturally accepted.

- ii) In other words, as we suffer *for* Christ we are also suffering *with* Christ, enjoying what the Apostle Paul termed "the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings" (Philippians 3:10).

Suffering is the inevitable result of being identified with Christ and with His people. Where is our ultimate allegiance? What is our primary identification?

If we call ourselves Christians, we must forsake the world to follow Christ!

4) **God was bringing him on a journey from fear into faith.**

- a) Moses fled in fear but came back to confront Pharaoh in faith.

Exodus 2:13-15 - When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, "Why do you strike your companion?" v. 14 He answered, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid, and thought, "Surely the thing is known." v. 15 When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

- b) Faith is what it takes to conquer fear.
- c) He wasn't a great man of faith in the beginning.
 - i) Who argues with a God who is speaking out of burning bush?
 - ii) Who makes excuses about not being able to talk well with a speaking bush?

Final Thoughts:

- 1) Don't argue with your calling.
- 2) Come out and be different for the sake of Christ.
- 3) Confront and conquer the fear of man.
- 4) Don't worry about your future... we live by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).