

Moses, Deliverer of the Oppressed

Introduction:

1. Moses is probably the most well known character in all the O.T.
2. We read with interest the account in Exodus of his life, his commission by God at the burning bush, and his life's work of leading the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage.
3. In Heb. 11 we are reminded of His great faith, "refusing to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt" (24-25).
4. There is a character trait in Moses that God used to bring about the deliverance of His people. What I want to do in this study is to highlight that character trait. Is it a trait that you have? If so, how are you using it in the service of God and His people? If it is not a trait prominent in your life, what traits do you have that God would use (or is using) in the service of His people?
5. What is the trait that Moses possessed?

Discussion:

- I. Moses was a man moved to action when he saw oppression. This is illustrated for us in the narration preceding the account of his leading Israel out of Egypt.

- A. Ex. 2:11-15.
 1. Moses was touched by the hard labors of his brethren.
 2. Observing this a particular incident is recounted where he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave.
 3. Even though Moses was raised in the house of Pharaoh he identified with the Hebrews.
 4. Moses saw the injustice and acted to protect the innocent. Make whatever judgment you may want to about what he did, it is still evident that he is motivated to action because of his sense of injustice and his desire to make things equitable/fair.
 5. I am sure Moses could have ignored the circumstance, looked the other way, explained that he did not want to get involved, explained that he was in a hard place and was not willing to risk his life over this, BUT that is not what he did.
 6. There are all kinds of things that may face us that call on us to act for justice. What is our response?
 - a. Do we look the other way as millions of children are murdered in abortion?
 - b. Would we look the other way if people were kidnapped and sold into slavery?
 - c. Would we look the other way if 6 million Jews were murdered?
 - d. Such events have happened in societies, but we are separated from these. But are there events taking place in front of us where action needs to be taken and we are not responding appropriately? A child abused? Are we angered about the right things?
 - e. We may not be in a position to rescue slaves, stop abortion, or eliminate genocide, but are we acting where we can? I am not advocating "killing Egyptians." But I am

advocating compassion on the oppressed. Do you respond to the lonely? Do you care for the aging? Respond to the grieving? Teach the lost?

7. Moses sought reconciliation between brothers.
 - a. He found out quickly that is a thankless task.
 - b. He was criticized and rebuked and threatened.
 - c. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matt. 5:9).
 - d. Right after that Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have been persecuted" (Matt. 5:10).
 - e. Jesus died to bring about peace (Eph. 2:14ff).
 - f. Paul said, "so far as it depends on you be at peace with all men" (Rom. 12:18). In 1 Cor. he rebuked some for going to law against their brothers and asked, "Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?" (6:7).
 - g. Hard work, seeking reconciliation between brothers.
- B. That these events were significant in Moses' later deliverance of Israel is evident in Acts 7:24ff.
 1. Note the interpretation given by Stephen (v. 25).
 2. The very mention of the events makes them significant.
- C. Ex. 2:16-20.
 1. Now you might dismiss this little episode as not very significant. But it has found a place in the biblical record for a reason.
 2. And it calls attention to this trait that Moses has—a sense of injustice and the need to rectify such situations.
 3. Again it calls on Moses' to be courageous.
 4. Would you have been a person who acted as he did or would you have chided the women as weak, laughed at them and sided with the bullies?
 5. Moses' character was evident in the way he treated women. What does the way you treat women reveal about you? Do you cast your vote for equality? Do you defend that woman at work from bullies? Or are you one who bullies her? Women can be bad about bullying each other.

II. God has these same character traits (Ex. 3:7-9).

- A. God was motivated to deliver Israel as a result of the same qualities that we see in Moses.
 1. He saw the affliction of the people (7; Acts 7:34).
 2. He came down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians. This is the same language used of Moses and his "deliverance" of the women (2:19).
 3. God used Moses as a "deliverer" (Acts 7:35).
- B. We make our theology relevant when we take the traits that we see in God and bring them into our life in real and applicable ways.
 1. It takes courage for often our lives are endangered.
 2. Although we may not be able to affect the disparities of our culture we can act in the situations that do touch our lives. And it may involve something as simple as defending some women who want to water their sheep. It is just that kind of thing that God sees and uses.

III. What traits do you possess that God might use?

- A. While our tendency may be to diminish ourselves we really should take a hard look at ourselves and at God.
 - 1. Observing a trait in Him that we need to have we need to transform ourselves.
 - 2. No, we should not exalt ourselves, nor be arrogant, but we do need to recognize what God has given us and use it in our service to His people.
- B. God expects us to use what He has given us (Rom. 12:4-8).
- C. God can take what He sees within us, empower it with the strength of an angel in a burning bush, and accomplish great deliverances (Acts 7:35).

Conclusion:

- 1. If an account of your life were written what traits would be identified in your service to God's people?
- 2. What traits do you possess that God is using? What traits do you possess that God would use?