

Sermon Series-“Moses–God’s Poster Child of Meekness and Dedication”–Lord of Life, Westfield, IN-5/16/2010

Title: “God’s Will, My Way”

Text: Exodus 2: 11-15; Acts 7: 21-29

Theme: An integrity filled walk with the Lord not only submits to His plan for our lives but also to the way that the plan is to be carried out in actions and words.

To be a good leader requires, first, being a good follower

God (*not the Devil*) is in the details of everything that sets up our life (**Acts 7: 21-22**)

1. **God gave Moses top drawer training**—educationally, leadership wise, militarily – to get him ready for desert walk
 - a. He was brilliant military commander (Ethiopian victory)(*Josephus, Antiquities, book 2, ch10, “The Works of Flavius*)
 - b. He was a great student – *“Moses . . . was powerful in speech and action.” vs. 22*
 - c. He was Prince of Egypt (Pharaoh’s daughter had adopted him with ***all the rights, honors, and privileges***)
2. **God moves in our lives:** family/spiritual background, education/occupation, skills/abilities **to shape us for his plan**
 - a. *He is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. Acts 17: 25*
 - b. Being careful not to mistaken God-given gifts/traits for self-attained and self-serving aggrandizement
 - c. *‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty. Zechariah 4: 6*

We must be careful of sinful pride which runs ahead of God’s will, timing, or results

1. **Moses felt that the Israelites and Pharaoh should recognize his “calling”** from God to be their **“Great Deliverer”**
 - a. Fellow Israelites shunned him (**Acts 7: 23-28**)
 - b. Pharaoh sought to kill him (*Then Moses was afraid and said, “Surely the matter has become known.” When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he tried to kill Moses. Exodus 2: 14-15*)
2. Much of **the unintended consequence** in our lives is a result of haughtiness toward others and pride before God
 - a. Moses new that was he was doing was *wrong* (***So he looked this way and that . . . vs. 12***)
 - b. We seek to manipulate God or others into getting our selfish ways (**James 4: 1-3**)
 - c. When in doubt, don’t – Being suspicious of our motives and laying them before God before we speak or act
 - d. *All a man’s ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD. Proverbs 16:2*
3. **A relationship with Christ is all about followership** that He and his leadership might be formed in us
 - a. *A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher. Luke 6:40*
 - b. It is all about surrender to God’s will, his timing, his way of doing it, and his result
 - c. *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9*

Allowing our God and Savior to redeem the outcome of our decisions and our days

Often, we find ourselves adrift on the sand of the sea of our self-made deserts

1. **Moses ran to hide in the desert and set up shop (settled -vs. 15)**
 - a. Unwilling to acknowledge sinful pride he had to settle for a heat-ridden, scorpion-bitten, self-imposed prison
 - b. Probably thought his life was over, little knowing that God was a work desert training him for 40 years later
2. **What self-imposed dungeon do you find yourself in,** what are you settling for; yet, what may God be doing in it?
 - a. **The fact that we still live well cannot ease the pain of feeling that we no longer live nobly.**
John Updike Leadership V16#2
 - b. You and I cannot go so deep into sin’s darkness where the grace of God cannot find us
 - c. *Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. Psalm 139:7-10*

Looking for God in Christ to redeem even my “mistakes” and “poor choices”

1. The **Old Testament roll call of hero’s** are not porcelain vases but crack pots used and redeemed by God
2. Our relationship to God and his use of us is based on his redeeming plan and means of using us for noble work
3. *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 2 Cor. 4:7*
4. Sometimes he leads us through the desert times to **find “his well of grace”(15)** so that we become more useful
5. **Illus.: The Well Will Never Run Dry**

Integrity

Scientists now say that a series of slits, not a giant gash, sank the *Titanic*. The opulent, 900-foot cruise ship sank in 1912 on its first voyage, from England to New York. Fifteen hundred people died in the worst maritime disaster of the time. The most widely held theory was that the ship hit an iceberg, which opened a huge gash in the side of the liner. But an international team of divers and scientists recently used sound waves to probe the wreckage, buried in the mud under two-and-a-half miles of water. Their discovery? The damage was surprisingly small. Instead of the huge gash, they found six relatively narrow slits across the six watertight holds. Small damage, invisible to most, can sink not only a great ship but a great reputation. *USA Today*, April 9, 1997.

Integrity in Leadership

order to be a leader a man must have followers. And to have followers, a man must have their confidence. Hence the supreme quality of a leader is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, on a football field, in an army, or in an office. If a man's associates find him guilty of phoniness, if they find that he lacks forthright integrity, he will fail. His teachings and actions must square with each other. The first great need, therefore, is integrity and high purpose. **Dwight D. Eisenhower, *Bits & Pieces*, September 15, 1994, p. 4.**

The Well Will Never Run Dry

The following letter was found in a baking-power can wired to the handle of an old pump that offered the only hope of drinking water on a very long and seldom-used trail across Nevada's Amargosa Desert: "This pump is all right as of June 1932. I put a new sucker washer into it and it ought to last five years. But the washer dries out and the pump has got to be primed. Under the white rock I buried a bottle of water, out of the sun and cork end up. There's enough water in it to prime the pump, but not if you drink some first. Pour about one-fourth and let her soak to wet the leather. Then pour in the rest medium fast and pump like crazy. You'll git water. The well has never run dry. Have faith. When you git watered up, fill the bottle and put it back like you found it for the next feller. (signed) Desert Pete. P.S. Don't go drinking the water first. Prime the pump with it and you'll git all you can hold." **Keith Miller and Bruce Larson, *The Edge of Adventure*.**

Exodus 2:11-15

¹¹Now it came about in those days, when Moses had grown up, that he went out to his brethren and looked on their hard labors; and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren.

¹²So he looked this way and that, and when he saw there was no one around, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

¹³He went out the next day, and behold, two Hebrews were fighting with each other; and he said to the offender, "Why are you striking your companion?"

¹⁴But he said, "Who made you a prince or a judge over us? Are you intending to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and said, "Surely the matter has become known."

¹⁵When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the presence of Pharaoh and settled in the land of Midian, and he sat down by a well. [NASB]

Acts 7:21-29

²¹When he was placed outside, Pharaoh's daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. ²²Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

²³"When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his fellow Israelites. ²⁴He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. ²⁵Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not. ²⁶The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?' ²⁷"But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us?' ²⁸Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?"

²⁹When Moses heard this, he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner and had two sons. [NIV]

James 4:1-3

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.